

# 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

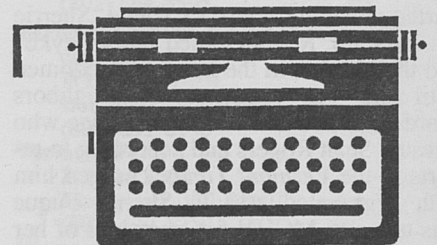
Putting together a monthly newsletter is both challenging and frustrating. The monthly cycle means that there are sometimes long delays between the time something happens and the time we report it. We are frequently in the position of either reporting on something that is going to happen, or deciding whether to run an article on something that may be "old news" to many of you. In the case of ongoing stories, there may be a 2-3 week gap between the time the story is written and the time it is read. This is particularly relevant in the case of the cover article on the incidents of violence against lesbians. The attacks occurred in late August and mid-September and you are reading about them here in early November. At press time, mid-October, both cases are still under investigation, with the outcomes uncertain. We felt the severity of the alleged attacks was important enough to merit an article, despite the time lag.

We don't always have a running theme to the newsletter, though this month there are several articles on the ways we create families. The "traditional" American family is a minority these days - recent census data indicates that in 1988 only 27% of families fit the definition of two straight parents living with their children. The even more "traditional" definition in which a husband is the "breadwinner", and mother stays home with two or more biological children fits only 7.1% of

households. We sometimes feel we are on the forefront of change; the reality is that there are as many types of ways to create families as can be imagined and they are in the majority. Just the response to the formation of Vermont Lesbian and Gay Parents has been phenomenal; in the 9 months since it started over 20 families have called for information and many have become regular participants. As my partner and I tell our sons, and as beautifully described in Moira's article, what makes a family is who you choose to live with and love.

As the only statewide paper serving the lesbian, gay, and bisexual community, *Out in the Mountains* relies on you, our readers for leads on what is happening, good and bad in our community. If you know of something, please contact us through our co-chairs Larry Wolf (563-2938) Cheri Goldstein (229-0109) or write us c/o OITM, PO Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402, so that we can provide as complete coverage as possible.

Deborah Lashman



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. N-91