

# Outright Shifts Gears

Dot Brauer

For any readers out there who are unfamiliar with Outright Vermont, you should know that it is an exciting, organization with an exciting mission — to make our communities and schools safer, more positive places for gay, lesbian and bisexual (glb) young people to grow up in.

Just what this work entails has evolved steadily since the creation of Outright a few short years ago. When a handful of people began meeting in 1988, Outright was just an idea. Now Outright has a strong grassroots presence in Chittenden County that includes a lending library with over 400 volumes and a dedicated volunteer librarian, a drop-in center that is open limited hours, co-sponsorship of various local glb events, and a weekly social support group for youth aged 14-23. The support group provides an opportunity for glb young people to meet each other, to spend time with positive adult role models and to get accurate information about safer sex and glb lifestyles.

Equally exciting is Outright's growing statewide presence, which has come in the form of a toll-free information line and an active training and education component. In January 1991, Outright began operation of an 800 information line (1-800-GLB-CHAT) that reaches all of Vermont and New Hampshire. This line is used by many callers during daytime hours when staff are in the of

office. By February, volunteers began staffing the line three evenings per week.

The ongoing challenge faced by info-line team members is the invisibility of the glb population, youth and adult. We continue to work through these challenges to build a statewide base of resource information and to reach glb young people who could benefit from the service. If you work in human services or in a school setting, and are willing to be listed as a resource person in your area or would like information about our 800 line, please write the Outright Info-line Team (see Resource page) or call 865-9677.

Outright continues to expand training and education throughout the state, as more and more parents, guidance counselors and teachers call Outright for assistance in addressing the climate of homonegative attitudes in their own homes and schools. This fall alone, Outright representatives have made presentations on topics related to homophobia and adolescent sexuality development to students at UVM, Trinity and Middlebury College, and several high schools in the state. Outright also provides training to caregivers who work with youth at conferences and workshops and hopes to increase the emphasis on faculty education in the future.

As Outright grows, so does our list of volunteers. At this time, over fifty people

are involved in carrying out the work of Outright, from the Public Relations/Publicity and Fundraising Committee to Programs and Education. You don't have to have any special background to be able to help Outright make a difference in your community. If you are interested in getting involved, call Sylvia Racca, our volunteer Volunteer Coordinator, at 863-9433.

Like any organization, Outright has experienced growing pains. A rather significant growing pain will be happening for us this month as we move and establish new offices. We need office furnishings since our previous location provided much of what we needed. We are looking for desks, chairs, lamps, shelves, computer tables, etc. We are also looking for miscellaneous office equipment, like a paper cutter, storage boxes for computer disks, and file cabinets. If you have any of these items that are in good working order and would be interested in donating them to Outright, please call 865-9677, MWThF, from 1-5 pm.

*Dot Brauer became the new Program Director of Outright Vermont in September 1991. She completed her Masters Degree in Psychology at Antioch/New England Graduate School in May of '91. She has lived and worked in the Burlington area since 1986. ▼*

## Where to Find OITM

Bennington Free Library	Bennington	Northshire Bookstore	Manchester Center
Brattleboro Food Coop	Brattleboro	Middlebury Natural Food Coop	Middlebury
Cahoots	Brattleboro	Bear Pond Books	Montpelier
Colors	Brattleboro	Horn of the Moon Cafe	Montpelier
Common Ground	Brattleboro	Woman Centered	Montpelier
Everyone's Books	Brattleboro	Morristown Centennial Library	Morrisville
Burlington College	Burlington	Moore Free Library	Newfane
Chassman & Bem	Burlington	Northeast Kingdom AIDS Coalition	Newport
Partners in Recovery & Growth	Burlington	Brown Public Library	Northfield
Pearls	Burlington	Social Alternatives for Gay Men	Norwich
Planned Parenthood	Burlington	Woman's Study Program	Plainfield
STEP Learning Center	Castleton	Putney Library	Putney
Craftsbury Public Library	Craftsbury	Kimball Public Library	Randolph
Rutland Area Gay/Lesbian Connection	E. Middlebury	PFLAG	Rutland
Innwood Manor	East Barnet	Rutland Free Library	Rutland
Greenhope Farm	East Hardwick	LUNA/NEVGALR c/o Umbrella	St. Johnsbury
Fair Haven Free Library	Fair Haven	Natural Provisions	St. Johnsbury
Buffalo Mountain Coop	Hardwick	Regional Library	St. Johnsbury
Galaxy Books	Hardwick	St. Johnsbury Athenaeum	St. Johnsbury
Jon's Automotive	Lyndonville	Food for Thought	Stowe
Project EXCEL, Lyndon State College	Lyndonville	WRJ Books	White River Junction