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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

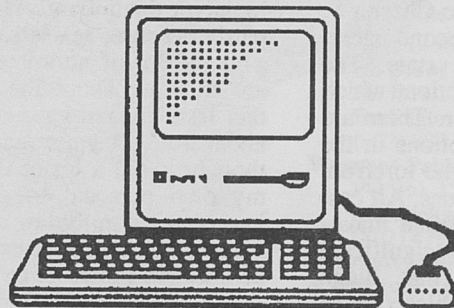
The New American Family. That was the title of one of two op-ed pieces in *The New York Times* in less than a week, celebrating the successful second parent adoption by the New York City partner of a lesbian mother last month. James Marks, the lawyer for the couple, wrote of the judge's positive decision and its reflection of the changing American family. Anna Quindlen applauded the adoption and then went on to talk about legalizing lesbian and gay marriages; describing it as a, "radical notion for straight people and a conservative notion for gay ones."

The New York decision and Judge Ketchem's decision here in Vermont, both reported on page one of this issue, lend an air of hope and optimism to an era when gay bashing is on the rise and the Supreme Court and lower courts seem to be turning back civil rights gains of the past twenty years. We have special reason to be op-

timistic here in Vermont. When Judge Ketchem can not only approve the first second parent adoption in Vermont, but do so in a way that recognizes that having two legal parents is clearly in the best interests of the child and when Governor Dean not only agrees to support the lesbian and gay civil rights bill, but also makes a point of mentioning it in his State of the State address, suggests a growing recognition of our needs and rights as people and families.

As a companion piece to the adoption stories, we've included a round-up of some children's books about our families. Ask your bookstore, school, and local library to carry these titles. Like Hannah's two moms, how and why we come out may have as much to do with what we think is best for our families as with being political.

Deborah Lashman ▼



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