

**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

"It would seem that this is a concept whose time has come." David Curtis, *OITM*, Vol. 1, No.1, February 1986.

Six years later, the time has indeed come. Reviewing the legislative timeline in this issue, we see hate crimes legislation, AIDS funding, protections from discrimination on the basis of HIV/AIDS status, and now finally a civil rights bill. However, as we celebrate the bill becoming law on July 1st, we also need to remember how much further we have to go both in Vermont and nationally.

In Vermont we still don't have protections for and recognition of our families. The law does not address family and domestic partner issues except in a negative way; ensuring that the definition of family or dependent in an employee benefit plan is not automatically changed by the bill.

Vermont's senior senator, Patrick Leahy, still refuses to become a co-sponsor of the Federal anti-discrimination legislation. Paul Olsen speculates on the reasons and has some suggestions for action.

Nationally, despite increasing congressional and media pressure, the Defense Department has reaffirmed its policy of banning lesbians and gays, saying, "a gay lifestyle is incompatible with military ser-

vice." This at a time the Senate is holding up the promotions of all naval officers in the light of continuing revelations about sexual harrassment of women and cover-up. Apparently for years harrassing, abusing and even raping fellow members of the armed service has been considered compatible with military service, at least until it explodes in the national media and affects an aide to an admiral.

From working with the political process by learning about candidates, lobbying and voting; to using the legal sytem to test existing legislation; to outspoken and outrageous protests like those of ACT UP, we all need to keep the momentum going. Yes, we should celebrate, yes we should pat ourselves on the back for the hard work we have done to get this far. But we can not stop. Events in our everyday lives reinforce the fact that we still have a long way to go to achieve full citizenship.

Anna Quidlan's commentary says it in a slightly different context; "The point is not what you'll tell your friends at the bridge table. It is what you'll tell yourself at the end." Not a bad motto for living one's life.

Deborah Lashman ▼

## Gays to Represent VT at Democratic National Convention

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It is anticipated that the Democratic Platform will include planks calling for an end to discrimination based on sexual orientation, a national commitment to fighting AIDS, and protection of a women's right to choose. Within those broad parameters, much debate and discussion usually takes place on the Platform Committee around the strength of the language dealing with those sections.

(In contrast to the Democratic Platform, where a number of openly gay people will sit on the committee, the Republicans recently denied a number of gay Republican groups the right even to testify in front of the party's national platform hearing in Salt Lake City.)

The entire Vermont delegation (21 delegates, 4 alternates and 3 committee members) appears to be in strong support of lesbian/gay issues. In addition to to Anderson and Squires, many high profile supporters of

lesbian and gay civil rights will be part of the delegation. Former state Representative and ACLU lobbyist Ben Truman will be an uncommitted delegate, as will civil rights bill co-sponsors Senators Elizabeth Ready and Mary Just Skinner and Representative Linda Almy. Brown delegates will include Senator Mary Ann Carlson, Representative Don Hooper and Pro-Choice Vermont leader Elaine Alfano. Governor Howard Dean and Representative Bob Harris will be Clinton delegates, and Representative Mary Sullivan will be a Clinton member of the Credentials Committee. ▼

## Submitting a Letter

*OITM* welcomes letters to the Editor and will withhold your name or use your initials or first name only on request. However, we must have your full name and address for our files if we are to print your letter. Letters may be edited for length or clarity. ▼