

Out in the Mountains

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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's the morning after the election and after the elation of Clinton's victory and the defeat of Measure 9 in Oregon, comes the reality of what it means. While we can and should take some time to appreciate what for most of us is a victory; the defeat of George Bush and repudiation of 12 years of hate mongering and neglect, we also have to make sure we hold those we voted for responsible to us. It's too early to know to what extent the lesbian and gay vote was responsible for Bush's defeat, but predictions just prior to the election suggested we would comprise a substantial voting block.

It seems certain some things will change almost right away. Clinton's promise to issue an executive order banning the military from excluding gays and lesbians is likely to occur within days or weeks of his taking office. His pledge to increase both funding and focus on AIDS issues (and other health care issues, including the lack of accessibility and affordability for many Americans) is also likely to see early action.

It also seems safe to assume there will be increased visibility and presence of lesbians and gays and our issues in the administration. (Though as Barny Frank pointed out in an election night interview, the current administration could support its own chapter of PFLAG.)

Despite these pluses, we need to be vigilant on the national and local level to make sure we continue to move forward. While Bill Clinton

is years ahead of Bush and the Republicans on issues of civil rights and AIDS funding, it's not clear how much further his support goes. It took months before he publicly spoke against Oregon's Measure 9 and he has said he doesn't believe in gay marriage. While he has spoken of including our families in his vision of America, we don't know where he stands on such issues as domestic partnership concerns and adoption and foster care.

Yes we have gained ground. The fact that our issues were taken seriously and debated nationally is a major improvement. The backlash against the hate-mongering of the Republican National Convention is heartening. However, even as we give a sigh of relief over the defeat of Measure 9, we have to wonder how much of a victory it is to simply hold the line. We look to Colorado and Florida and wonder where the next fight will be and how much of our energy will be consumed in trying to keep the same thing from happening elsewhere. Certainly we can hope that with an administration that is not pledged to using hate and divisiveness as a tool to distract Americans from the real issues and problems in their lives we can see some real change.

Hope and change - those were the ever present themes of the Clinton campaign to the point where it almost sounded like a joke. But that's precisely what we need to keep alive - that momentum that got us energized to work in local and national campaigns, got increased recognition of our issues and concerns (and our very lives), got us to the polls in record numbers, and has to carry us as we continue the hard work of ensuring our full participation in American society. ▼

Plans for Pride Day 1993 Cruise Along

Taking advantage of an early start, plans are already underway for the 1993 Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride Day celebration. The date has been set for **Saturday June 26th in Burlington**. Mark your calendars now and plan to be there. If you usually go to Boston, New York or San Francisco to celebrate Pride...this year we want you to come to Burlington. We want to have costumes and floats and full state representation. Let's be loud and proud here in our own state.

It's not too late to get involved in planning. We want a broad base of individuals. We'll need committee members for various projects (from fund raising to float making) **and we also need folks that want to get regional groups organized.**

While still in the early stages of planning, one thing is clear. We want to have FUN. Tentative ideas include a march complete with floats, with horse teams, with bikers, and hikers, you name it...and a picnic/fair/entertainment day after the march at Oakledge Park in Burlington; volleyball tournaments, raffles, comedians, music, historical photo and slide retrospective. Let us know what would be fun for you.

We've got a few fundraisers planned already; a Valentines Day dance and a Pride walk-a-thon. We'll be keeping you posted. It's also not too early to send in a donation. Checks can be made to VLGB Pride 1993 and sent to PO Box 1752, Burlington, VT 05402.

For more information on how you can get involved call: Lucy at 863-8236 or Leah at 864-6764. ▼