

Out in the Mountains
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Statement of Purpose

The purpose of *Out in the Mountains* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and our supporters in Vermont. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation. We also see *OITM* as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities.

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent those of the staff. This paper cannot and will not endorse any candidates and actions of public officials on issues of importance to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

We will not publish any material which is overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, or homophobic.

All materials submitted must be signed. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles may appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed.

To Submit Articles & 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. Thank you for helping out!

Materials should be sent to:
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How to Advertise

If you would like to run an ad in *OITM*, please contact us for rates, sizes, and information. Copy can be mailed to: *OITM*, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402, or call Ellen at (802) 860-1922 Steven West at (802) 864-6399 or Bruce at BMH graphic design at (802) 658-1556.

Read *OITM*
Monthly

**From the Editor:
Queer Top 10 of 1995**

Fred Kuhr

WINOOSKI -- Wait a minute, didn't we just do this? Didn't we just celebrate New Year's? 1995 is almost over? The year just got started! I checked last year's "Queer Top 10," and screamed to myself, "What? *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* was over a year ago? *Go Fish* was 1994?"

Now that I'm totally depressed, here's an attempt to turn New Year's back into a celebration. Once again, with the knowledge that mainstream popular culture usually finds its roots in the g/l/b community, here is a Queer Top 10 of 1995.

10. The Brady Bunch Movie (Betty Thomas, Director)

None of the lead characters were gay, but this was perhaps the queerest movie of the year. Keeping true to their 70s TV identity, the Bradys were plopped into the 90s -- in groovy technicolor splendor. In the movie's queer mix were an interracial gay couple as neighbors, Marcia's lesbian best friend, and RuPaul as Jan's guidance counselor. If only my high school counselor had told me, "You betta work!"

9. I Kissed A Girl (Jill Sobule)

Is this a true confession or a cash-in to lesbian chic? Who cares. This song is too fun and the video is even better. As the story goes, two women who are bored with their boyfriends decide to spice up their dull yuppie lives by flinging with each other instead. In the video, Sobule even gets to dump romance novel supermodel Fabio, who plays her boyfriend. WYHY, a Nashville radio station broadcast parental advisories before playing the ditty. Thankfully, Vermont stations such as Manchester's WEQX and Barre's WORK didn't feel the need.

8. Candace Gingrich

Who would have thought that having the Newtster as Speaker of the House would bring a lesbian into the national spotlight. Not only did that happen, but she's his sister! According to the Washington, DC-based Human Rights Campaign, Newt failed to cast even one pro-gay vote in 1994, but Sister Candace's outness brings the issues close to home. As she said herself, "At the very least, my being openly lesbian will make him think twice before aligning himself with some of the bigots out there."

7. Boys On The Side (Herb Ross, Director)

Ally and lesbian-wannabe Whoopi Goldberg got to whoop it up in this 'I laughed, I cried' road movie from earlier this year. This time 'round, Goldberg goes on the road with Drew Barrymore and the object of her character's affection, played by Mary-Louise Parker (who starred in the lesbian undertoned *Fried Green Tomatoes*). When reminded that this is her second big screen role as a lesbian, she blurted, "Everyone seems to be quite shocked at this role. I keep saying, 'Did you not see *The Color Purple*?'"

6. Priest (Antonio Bird, Director)

Most Vermonters would not have even heard of this movie if not for the pudgy nun on the Inspiration Network telling us not only to avoid the flick but to boycott all things Disney (the film's distributor). Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole even took a swing at the movie on NBC's *Meet The Press* as evidence of Hollywood's lack of "family values." Well, this BBC produced film is about a young priest who questions his faith because (among other things) he's gay. Yeah, like that never happens.

5. Greg Louganis

A Barbara Walters interview on ABC's *20/20* and publication of his autobiography *Breaking The Surface*, together with his coming out as a gay man with AIDS, thrust this Olympic diver back into the national spotlight. Although he started coming out a couple of years ago, his true confession was his knowledge of being HIV+ when he hit his head on the diving board while competing in Seoul in 1988. Personally I grew tired of seeing that damn dive over and over again on TV, but he is a role model to many.

4. Friends (NBC)

The central cast of daffy twentysomethings is not what brings this popular sitcom to the list, but one of its subplots. You see, Ross (played by David Schwimmer) had a wife, Carol, who left him -- for another woman, Susan. Soon after, Carol informed Ross that she was pregnant with his baby -- and she was planning on keeping it. Since then, a baby boy was born and both Ross and Susan not only battle for the baby's affections but also for Carol's. As Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow) said in the birthing episode, "So many kids don't even have two parents who love them. This baby has three fighting over who loves him more. Wow, he's lucky."

3. To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar (Beeban Kidron, Director)

I heard the complaints -- "It wasn't gay enough," "I hate it when straights play gay," "*Priscilla* was better." But you can't argue the power of this movie -- nor the fact that it shot up to #1 at the box office. Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes, and John Leguizamo star in this "fairy tale in the truest sense -- complete with simple message, happy ending, and plenty of make-believe," according to a review in the DC-based *Washington Blade*. The message here for the g/l/b community is wrapped up in leading a double life, wearing the mask, and being caught in a situation where you can't take the mask off.

2. Serving In Silence (NBC)

Hot on the heels of the gays-in-the-military controversy, partially brought on by Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer herself, came the TV movie of the year. Named for the autobiography it's based on, the film cast Glenn Close as the discharged Cammermeyer and Judy Davis as her partner Diane. Executively produced by Close and Barbra Streisand, it brought an enlightened and sympathetic view of the issue (and lesbianism itself) into the homes of middle America. Close reported that her child's nanny said that the movie "makes it so attractive to have a relationship with a woman (that) closet doors are gonna be slappin' open all over the country." Not likely, but impressive.

1. Melissa Etheridge

Truly the dyke diva of popular culture -- no less than six songs ("Come To My Window," "I'm The Only One," "If I Wanted To," "Bring Me Some Water," "Like The Way I Do," "Your Little Secret") flooded radio airwaves all over the state all year long. Bruce Springsteen showed up at her *MTV Unplugged* taping for a duet. Her 1993 album *Yes I Am* passed the four million sales mark. She just released her new album *Your Little Secret*. She posed nude with her partner, Julie Cypher, for a PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) ad campaign. And she became the first out lesbian featured on a *Rolling Stone* cover. As *RS* music editor David Fricke said, "You turn on VH1, and it's like Melissa TV!" What more could you ask for?

Once again, have a happy and safe Christmas, Channukah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, Generic Holiday, and New Year's. Mazel Tov. ▼

OUTSPOKEN:

OITM's Quote of the Month

"Of course Catholic priests should be allowed to marry, but only if they love each other!"

A reader of *The (Dublin) Irish Times* in a letter to the editor

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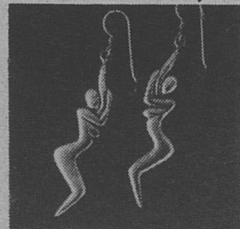
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