

Letters to the Editor

Support For Ankeney

Dear *OITM*:

I'd like to publicly voice my support for the re-election of Senator Jean Ankeney to the Vermont Senate, representing Chittenden County.

Senator Ankeney has a stellar record in the support of Gay and Lesbian concerns, as well as all Human Rights issues. She is deeply concerned about the welfare of all people, especially those who are economically disadvantaged. She has worked diligently to make equality in education a top priority of state government. She cares deeply about children, single parents, elders, and those for whom making a living and raising a family in Vermont is a constant economic struggle. She is a caring and compassionate person, and she deserves our support.

I'm asking that the Gay and Lesbian Community in Chittenden County, as well as our friends, families, and allies support Jean Ankeney with our votes on Election Day.

Richard Thorngren
South Burlington

Connected in Connecticut

Dear *OITM*:

Just wanted to say hello to all who work so hard to produce *Out in the Mountains*. As one who has fallen in love with Vermont, and especially with Burlington, I was very happy to discover *OITM* on the Internet recently (<http://members.aol.com/oitm/>).

I first visited Vermont five years ago as I accompanied a friend who was visiting the local Dignity Chapter. That visit made me wonder why I had waited so long to see Vermont. I not only think Vermont is the most beautiful state I have visited, but I was most impressed with the LesBiGay community I met as well. I have many good memories of the wonderful people I have come to know in Vermont. I would be remiss if I did not mention Bruce Howden by name, as we usually stayed at his cozy bed & breakfast when we visited Burlington.

My lover and I have been to Vermont at least 4 times this year - twice to Weston, to visit the Monks at the Priory, and twice to visit Burlington and surrounding places of interest to us. As ecumenical Franciscan Brothers who are also Gay, we visited with the folks from both the Episcopal and Roman Cathedral churches while in Burlington. We also made it over to St. Anne's Shrine for a brief visit.

The weather, this last time, was just beautiful and we had a great visit. We hope to return again

in the Spring of 97 to Burlington. I am sure that we'll be up to Weston Priory again real soon.

As the founder of the Ecumenical Order of St. Francis, it is my hope that someday we'll have a Community in Vermont. We are an independant Franciscan religious order of Christian men and women. Our members come from many Christian denominations. We are inclusive to people from all walks of life. Clearly, we wish to extend a particular welcome to Christians who are "traditionally" excluded from mainline religious orders due to the matter of their sexual orientation, age, gender, marital status, or physical challenges to name a few.

Before I begin to start sounding like I'm spouting an epistle, let me close here, by say again that I'm glad to have found you online. I will make it a point to check out your site on a regular basis so I can keep in touch with events. I feel so connected with Vermont that, for me, it's like being home when I'm there and leaving home when I have to return to Connecticut. Please keep up the fine work that you do. You have a great publication which does our community a great service.

May the Spirit continue to guide you!

Bro. Joshua Francis Coates, E.O.S.F., Founder
Ecumenical Order of St. Francis
Rocky Hill, CT

Support for Sanders

Dear *OITM*,

So often our community takes for granted the quality of life we have here. We have won civil rights protection, we have a hate crimes law that includes sexual orientation, and many companies, including the largest employers in the state (IBM and the state of Vermont) offer domestic partnership benefits. It is very important that we do not take these things for granted. The picture at the national level is not so rosy. The Senate recently rejected a bill to protect us from losing our jobs, and voted overwhelmingly to deny us the opportunity to be legally married to our partners. The news from Washington has been bleak.

Luckily, one voice in congress has continually had the courage to stand up for our rights. That person is Representative Bernie Sanders. Sanders has a 100% voting record from both the Human Rights Campaign and the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force. This means that he voted correctly on our issues 100% of the time! So often I find myself voting for the lesser of two evils, but not this time. I am honored to vote with pride for a man who has consistently been there for us in Congress, Representative Bernie

Sanders. I urge all gay, lesbian, bi, and trans Vermonters to do the same on November 5th.

Tom Aloisi
Burlington

Coming Out in a Positive Style

Dear *OITM*:

I have self-regard for myself as a sexual being, and so this is why I write. There's no reward in coming from an emotionally dysfunctional family which doesn't feel well all the time; moreover there is especially no sense of the positive when that affects or effects an individual's rights to be sexually free!

How does one take stock in the pursuit of happiness as a sexual being? Unfortunately, I don't think that means I have to be able to recalculate my own sexual preference — life is too short to make a hardship out of something with so much importance!

So the question lies in being able to believe in one's own recapitulation for understanding, because fortunately I don't believe in hate as a family value or individual value of this kind, when someone feels cut off from being himself/herself because of poor relations with loved ones. In the scheme of things, one might think that there is always the reassurance of being oneself with or without someone's permission, but in this case, there is no recourse for better feelings when the family you come from says, "No, we don't love you because you think you are gay."

How does one support oneself over the desire of fulfilling sexual need as a person, individual and loving human being? Again, there is no feeling of virtue "in raising riot or hate as family value," because it's difficult not to think and to feel that this widens the communication gap for someone on all levels of thought, feeling and action! It unquestionably hampers and therefore impedes all flow of the current "of knowing positivism" about living life to its fullest as a sexual being in this world!

So I guess there really and truly is no text for being able to resolve this kind of disheartening dilemma; except that it is always important to remember there is undying value in having the value for a feeling to be able to perservere — no matter how bad it gets for someone in the dynamics of things. There's fortitude in thinking and feeling high-spiritedness when all is loss — and so, I believe in the name of all that is fair, good, loving and true as a splash of positivism when it comes to something with so much importance. Because damn it, if I want to be a gay human being, then that's all I really and truly have to know about!

Todd Webster Miller
Burlington, Vermont

Out and About...

If you have news you'd like to include in our monthly "Out and About" column (weddings, anniversaries, births, deaths, awards, promotions, etc.), please send them in to us at PO Box 177, Burlington VT 05402 or e-mail us at Oitm@aol.com. Don't forget to include your name and phone number in case we need to contact you for clarifications or verification.

Out in the Mountains

VERMONT'S FORUM FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER ISSUES

By subscribing now to *Out in the Mountains*, not only will you guarantee delivery to your mailbox (in a discreet envelope), but you will also help us to underwrite the rising costs of publishing and distributing the newspaper. We welcome any additional contributions you can make to support our continuing existence. Checks should be made payable to our publisher, Mountain Pride Media, and sent, along with this form, to: *OITM* • PO Box 177 • Burlington VT 05402-0177.

Name _____

Address _____

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ One Year (\$20) _____ Low Income (\$10) _____ Sponsor (\$ _____)

Would you like to join our E-mail "alert" list? Address: _____

Sponsors who contribute \$30 or more will be honored in an upcoming list in the paper. 11/96

Q: Searching for a Realtor with considerable experience?

A: Call on the agent people have been turning to for 15 years.



RE/MAX

Bill Desautels
Realtor, CRS, GRI

North Professionals • 655-3333 ext. 17
Each office independently owned and operated