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## Classifieds

**OITM's Classified Section** features items for sale, housing opportunities, personals, help wanted and the like. Individuals may place ads at a rate of 10 cents per word with a \$3.00 minimum; businesses should contact the newspaper at 388-6503 for current advertising options. **Subscribers are entitled to one free ad (30 words maximum) per calendar year.** You place or respond to ads at your own risk; we cannot screen ads for legitimacy nor assume responsibility for their validity. To be considered for the next issue, ads should reach us by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Mail to: PO Box 177, Burlington VT 05402. **Payment must accompany your ad copy**, and we must have your full name, address, and phone number (these will be kept confidential).

### HOUSEMATES

**Non-smoking vegetarian teacher** seeks female housemate to share large farmhouse in Ferrisburgh. \$450.00 per month includes everything. Call 877-3653 evenings.

### WANTED

**Advertising Manager (as well as writers and artists)** to help fill the pages of *Out in the Mountains!* We're always looking for new volunteers, so if you'd like to get involved, drop us a line at PO Box 177, Burlington VT 05402 or call 388-6503.

### WISH LIST

**The Brattleboro Area AIDS Project** seeks the following items: a desk, a kitchen table, "straight" chairs (5 or 6), a stroller, and a king-size bed. If you can help, call Maryann or Marguerite at 254-8263.

## National News

### Anti-Marriage Initiatives Come Close to Home

It appears that our neighbors to the east will be faced with another anti-gay ballot initiative next year, this one to prevent recognition of same-sex marriages and unions performed either inside or outside of Maine.

Concerned Maine Families, the same group which sponsored the 1995 initiative to repeal anti-discrimination legislation, has collected enough signatures to present the new anti-marriage initiative to Maine's voters. According to Carolyn Crosby, the leader of the group, CMF will also work to repeal the recent decision of the University of Maine to extend domestic partner benefits to employees.

Authors of the new referendum claim that they intend "to encourage the traditional monogamous family unit as the basic building block of our society, the foundation of harmonious and enriching family life."

The recent enactment of DOMA and pro-gay developments in Hawaii have led other states to consider anti-marriage initiatives as well. Seventeen states have already passed such bills, while two states have seen executive orders handed down from their Governors.

Texas legislators will consider such a measure in the upcoming session, as may Florida's lawmakers if the state's Baptist lobby has anything to say about it. Oregon may also face a ballot initiative similar to Maine's in 1998. ▼

### Activists Protest "Gender Identity Disorder"

Transgendered activists and their allies joined together in Washington DC last month to protest the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) classification of transgenderism as a "disorder." Participants at the rally claimed that such a determination stigmatizes those who question their gender orientation or seek to change it.

The action, which took place during the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's annual Creating Change conference, was sponsored jointly by Transsexual Menace, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Hermaphrodites With Attitude (HWA), Bi-Net USA, and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC).

The groups plan to continue their picketing and leafletting around meetings of the APA, with the next protest scheduled for San Diego in May. Activists claim that officials within the APA have "gender-pathophilia" and an unwillingness to admit to the fluid diversity of human gender and sexuality.

Some members of the transgendered movement, however, uphold the GID diagnosis, particularly those who are able to use the classification for health insurance purposes. Others note that the rarity of such cases stands in sharp contrast to the overwhelming number of discriminatory acts against transgendered people.

NGLTF Media Director Robert Bray compared the current protests to the activism which occurred in 1973, when gay and lesbian people fought the APA to remove homosexuality from their listing of mental diseases. "No one," said Bray, "whether gay, lesbian, bi, transgender or intersexed, should have to accept being pathologized as mentally ill in order to obtain wholeness, completeness and civil equality."

Though NGLTF has not moved to request eliminating the GID classification entirely, it has urged the APA to consider reforming its current definition so as not to "pathologize transpeople or genderqueer youth." The group has also called for increased funding for transgendered research, and inclusion of trans representatives on relevant policy-making committees at the APA. ▼

### "Jenny Jones" Killer Sentenced to 25-50 Years

Jonathan Schmitz, the man who murdered openly gay Scott Amedure after his friend confessed to having a crush on him on the Jenny Jones talk show, was convicted of second-degree murder on November 12. Schmitz received a sentence of 25-50 years in prison, plus two years on weapons charges. Had he been convicted of first-degree murder, he would have faced a life term.

"I'd like to say the word sorry," Schmitz told Judge Francis X. O'Brien in a poem he recited shortly before the sentence was handed down. "The word 'sorry' is a very powerful word. It has a lot of meaning, and it is meant."

Jurors wrangled over whether to convict Schmitz of first or second degree murder. His medical history, which included a thyroid condition, major depression, and severe alcoholism and substance abuse, led jurors to decide against a first-degree conviction.

On the unaired program, Amedure confessed that he was in love with his next door neighbor. Schmitz was then brought out on stage to meet the person he knew only to be a "secret admirer," believing it would be a woman. Though he did not appear overly surprised when Amedure stepped forward as the admirer, witnesses claimed that Schmitz had been deeply disturbed by the revelation, and that subsequent contact from Amedure pushed him over the edge.

Three days after the show was taped, Schmitz withdrew some money from the bank, then drove to two local stores to purchase a shotgun and ammunition. He continued on to Amedure's trailer and broke his way in, shooting the stunned gay man twice in the chest at point blank.

Oddly, only the prosecuting attorney, Roman Kalytiak, addressed the homophobic aspects of the murder. When asked if the subject came up during the jury's deliberations, juror Joyce O'Brien claimed, "I don't think that homosexuality entered into our discussion whatsoever." Members of the jury did believe, however, that the talk show had triggered Schmitz's violent response.

Amedure's family remained unsatisfied with the verdict, and will continue legal actions against Warner Brothers and TelePictures, the co-producers of the "Jenny Jones" show. Ironically, Schmitz will also file a suit against the companies. ▼

### Episcopalians May Allow Same-Sex Unions

By a margin of 5 to 2, members of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania have voted to support "a rite or rites for the blessing of committed relationships between persons of the same sex."

In her proposal for the rites, Reverend Ruth Kirk challenged the church to end the centuries of condemnation, and to support the love between gay and lesbian people.

Following heated discussion, lay representatives of the diocese's parishes also approved the proposal, a result which surprised a number of church leaders, including Bishop Allen Bartlett. The Bishop claimed that publicity around the heresy trial of Bishop Walter Righter added momentum to the initiative. Righter had been accusing of violating church doctrines by ordaining an openly gay and non-celibate man. The case was subsequently dismissed.

Even if the resolution succeeds in being approved at the general convention of the Episcopal Church in July, weddings and unions performed within the church would have no legal standing in Pennsylvania, which recently passed legislation prohibiting state recognition of same-gender unions of any kind. ▼