

# Letters to the Editor

## Some of Our Straight Readers Speak Out

### Responding to John

Dear Folks:

Re: The letter of John C. Dechon of El Paso, Texas (see Letters to the Editor, Dec. 96) ; re: "only homosexuals would read the magazine."

I never did have any attraction to men, and John certainly hasn't done much to change my mind. However, since I did read his letters in *OITM*, I must not be straight after all. I'm not interested in asking him for a date (I'm married, and I never go out with cultists), but maybe I should thank him for recruiting me to homosexuality via his all-powerful logical proof. Either that or I'll have to cancel my subscription.

He did insinuate he might be on his way up here. Maybe I'll just buy a gun.

Peace and love,  
Walter Forest

### HIV/AIDS Coverage Needs Attention

Dear Folks at *OITM*:

Thanks for putting together such a great publication. I look forward to each new issue, in spite of the fact that I am a practicing het [even though nasty old John from El Paso, Texas seems certain that all your readers must be gay].

One issue I'm hoping to see addressed, though, is the growing controversy over AIDS — i.e. is AIDS really caused by HIV? Are the tests actually reliable or accurate? Is AIDS in fact not one disease but many? Not to mention the fact that many AIDS or HIV patients have been "cured" (more or less) of this supposedly incurable disease by alternative therapies, whereas conventional treatment (AZT, etc.) produces nothing but death. When I first heard such theories I felt a bit skeptical, I admit, but now I am hearing such things from reputable folks who have done their homework and know what they are talking about (Gary Null, for one).

I hope someone can tackle this important topic in upcoming issues.

Nancy Ellen  
Plainfield, Vermont

*We hope to address HIV and AIDS issues more fully in future issues. A few short notes: New treatments (some including AZT) have helped HIV+ individuals live longer lives, though a "cure" remains unavailable at this time. As for the accuracy of HIV tests, it depends on the test in question. Most are fairly reliable, though checking twice when in doubt is always a good idea. Many of the groups listed on our Health Resources page can answer any further questions you may have about the virus. - Editor*

### Paper Chase

Dear *OITM*:

Keep up the good work! I love "Dykes to Watch Out For." Sorry that you went to newsprint from nice old white bond paper. I used to save *OITM*, but now I recycle 'em with the other newspapers. Didn't any libraries complain? But for the rest, you're doing a great job.

B.M.

*We recently investigated returning to white paper stock, but the cost per press run was nearly four times what we pay for newsprint! With paper prices continuing to rise and our funding still at the break-even level, it seems unlikely that we'll be able to afford a return to the good old days any time soon. - Editor*

Letters to the Editor can be sent to us at *OITM*, PO Box 177, Burlington VT 05402, or by e-mail to oitm@together.net. Please include your name, address, and telephone number in case we need to contact you for verification or clarification. Also, please note if you wish your letter to be signed "Anonymous" when published. Letters must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication. ▼

## Vermont Pride '97 Organizational Meeting Planned

**MONTPELIER** — It's not too early to start planning for the 1997 Vermont GLBT Pride celebration. Last year's coordinators (Bob Bolyard, Craig Stevens, and Robert Toms) will hold an organizational meeting for all interested people on Sunday, February 9th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Vermont AIDS Council offices, Room 27, 73 Main Street in Montpelier.

This will be a great chance to get together with people from all over the state and discuss what was good about last year's event and what can be done to make this year's even better.

All clubs, groups, organizations, and businesses are encouraged to send a representative to this meeting. It will only be through total participation from our community that the Vermont Pride celebrations can continue to grow.

If you have any questions, contact Craig Stevens (802-658-1602) or Bob Bolyard (802-865-3734) or send information to Vermont Pride, PO Box 5113, Burlington VT 05402-5113. ▼

## Out and About...

Mary Alice Schatzle and Donna Lescoe were featured in an article on domestic partnerships in the January 21st issue of the *Advocate*, the nation's gay and lesbian news magazine. The couple subsequently was invited to join Elizabeth Birch of the Human Rights Campaign Fund for a "Gay Marriage" talk show on MS-NBC, a national cable channel... Kevin Moss, a Professor of Russian at Middlebury College, celebrates the publication of *Out of the Blue* by Gay Sunshine Press. Moss edited the collection of classic and contemporary gay Russian writings... Check out the winter issue of the Vermont-based holistic newspaper *Eleventh Hour Cauldron* (Box 1596, Waitsfield VT 05673) for a refreshingly honest article called "Does Gay Mean Cheerful?" by publisher Chris Coolidge... **Planned Parenthood of Northern New England** recently addressed gay and lesbian concerns and featured the P-FLAG group (Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays) in a segment of its television show "Facts For Life," which ran on local cable stations in January. The group plans an upcoming workshop called "I Am What I Am: Working with Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth. For more information, call (800) 488-9638... Nearly one hundred people attended a memorial for **Jimmy Moyer**, one of the previous owners of Pearls in Burlington. Moyer died of a heart attack on December 6 while vacationing in Africa. The service was held on December 28 at the Dog Team Tavern in Middlebury. ▼

*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@together.net. Don't forget to include your name and phone number in case we need to contact you for clarifications or verification.*

*Be My Valentine...*

*Happy Valentine's Day, Sheila!  
I love you more each passing day.  
Forever yours, Nettie*

*Happy Valentine's Day to  
my one & only "Tim,"  
and also to my pals Alan & Don.  
Love, Ray*

*L — Thanks for the Christmas ring.  
Here's hoping for years of hand-  
fondling and passion, in a creative,  
balanced relationship with you.  
Happy Valentine's Day.  
Love, K.*

# 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.

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