

Out in the Mountains
Established in 1986

Editor: Christopher Moes
Business Manager: Steven West
Production Manager: Donald Eggert
Circulation Manager: David Grist
Website Managers: Kathie Sawyer, Tracy Butties
Proofreader: Elizabeth Hansen
Office Manager: Tracy Kommons
Sales: Donna Freeman, Roger Mapes
Brailist: Deborah Cloutier Fowler
Computer Support: Amy Hoffman
Contributors: Celia Cuddy, Constance Craving, Endora, Allen Fletcher, Donna Freeman, David Gramling, Joy D. Griffith, Sal Inglima, Kirsten Isgro, Rev. Christine Leslie, Peggy Luhrs, Paul Olsen, Beth Robinson, Esther Rothblum, Chris Tebbets

Out in the Mountains (ISSN 1081-5562) is published monthly by Mountain Pride Media, Inc. The newspaper maintains offices at 109 South Winooski Avenue in Burlington, Vermont. Our mailing address is PO Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402-0177. Our email address is oitm@together.net and our website is located at <http://www.vtpride.org>. The subscription rate is \$20 per year within the United States of America.

©1997, *Out in the Mountains*

Statement of Purpose

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

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 or actions of public officials on issues of importance to lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered persons.

We reserve the right not to publish any material deemed to be overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, xenophobic, or homophobic.

Writers' guidelines are available on request. All materials submitted must include a name and a contact number. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles may appear anonymously upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed.

Articles, letters, and artwork should be sent to us by the 15th of the month prior to the month of publication (i.e. February 15th for the March issue). We encourage and implore our readers to do what they can to make OITM a paper which truly represents the many voices of our communities.

Materials should be sent to:

Out in the Mountains
PO Box 177
Burlington, VT 05402-0177
phone: (802) 865-9294
email: oitm@together.net

Advertising

If you would like to place an ad in *Out in the Mountains*, please contact us for rates and guidelines. Ad copy should be mailed to the address above.

Check us out on the
World Wide Web!
[http://
www.vtpride.org](http://www.vtpride.org)

OITM now available
in braille format!
Contact Chris Moes
at (802) 865-9294 for
more information.

EDITORIAL: Giving Back to the Community

BY CHRISTOPHER MOES

The unofficial theme for this year's pride day celebration was, "What have you done for the community" and it seems the uproar over how this message came about may have distorted the point. The issue has lingered in my mind, and I feel it is a valid one. It is, perhaps, not fair for us really to make demands on gay businesses. Pearls, which seems to come under fire most with this question, has the right as a business to do anything it wants. It is a business, not a community center, not a nonprofit.

The reason this issue has continued to resonate in my mind is because several months ago I took charge of this paper you are reading now, an exciting proposition and at the same time a daunting one. The paper has been serving the community twelve years, existing too often just above financial ruin. It exists to this day because of the quiet and dedicated work of a number of people. I want to mention them here and the work they do because it is all at this paper we can afford to give our staff.

David Grist has taken care of distribution now for years, a thankless job. Steve West, in a more humble permutation, has been the business manager, working with ads, calling overdue advertisers, paying debts while crossing his fingers that our checks don't bounce.

The past three editors, Hugh Coyle, Deb Lashman, and Fred Kuhr, all worked countless hours, which isn't the hardest part. As editor you become a lightning rod for controversy in this paper, and it becomes a struggle not to take it personally. I

feel myself an heir to a huge responsibility, and I hope I can do as well as they have.

All of the other writers and volunteers around here donate their time and energy: Staci Visco did layout for the past year; Don Eggert has taken on layout; Kathie Sawyer, from Paperwork Solutions, handles all of the design for our website; Tracy Kommons came in and turned the office from a storage space into an office; and Paul Olsen, as well as a myriad of writers, donate their time because they see this forum as a crucial living institution that benefits the growth of our community.

Then there are the financial contributors, who fall into two categories, the first just the straight forward donors, who we greatly appreciate, and then there are the advertisers who make up the vast chunk of our income. We appreciate our advertisers, although it may be perceived by some businesses as a loss, the resounding truth is that advertising in this paper works. A number of our advertisers have told me that they have gotten numerous loyal clients due to their ads in this paper. When it comes down to it, if a business does something for the community, like advertise in OITM, or donate a space for a benefit or a meeting space, and if this business makes money in the process, then basically every one wins.

The Rainbow Business Association and gay businesses in general have gained a certain amount of attention lately, and I think we all see this as a good thing for the community. Businesses don't owe the community anything, merely by virtue of being gay owned, although, those that help the community are greatly appreciated. While you read OITM, take time to notice who they are.

ON THE OTHER HAND:

•Three local bisexual activists go to national gathering.

BY KIRSTEN ISGRO

In early June, the national Bisexual organization, BiNet USA, held it's annual meeting in Orlando, Florida. Three Vermont bisexual activists attended the "Building Bridges" meeting, and the following is a brief report of the weekend.

The annual meeting is a time for national and regional organizers to connect and work with other local bisexual activists, thus increasing and developing bisexual community and visibility. The meeting was scheduled in conjunction with Gay/Lesbian Day at

Disney World, in attempts to increase awareness about bisexuality. Disney World does not officially endorse Gay Day, a tradition for the past 17 years. In addition to joining thousands of other queers at Disney World, BiNet USA's annual meeting worked on creating a strategic plan for the next year, particularly in terms of doing more outreach and networking with other organizations.

Over the last year, BiNet USA has continued to operate as an information clearinghouse for Bisexuals and our allies. The Bi Youth Initiative pursues its efforts to include bisexuals in queer youth organizations and send young adult representatives to national gatherings. BiNet USA has also created and delivered dozens of workshops on bisexuality at the national con-

ferences of others organizations, such as the National Gay and Lesbian Creating Change Conference and the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Conference. Three BiNet USA national coordinators met with a liaison to the White House in November 1996 to educate the administration on issues specific to bisexual and transgendered people. BiNet USA also lobbied on Capitol Hill in February 1997 to promote the passage of ENDA. BiNet also has been working with the Human Rights Campaign to establish more regular collaboration between the organizations.

One issue of great importance to Vermonters is the continued effort to establish the Rural Bisexual Initiative, for those people who are living in less populated areas. A

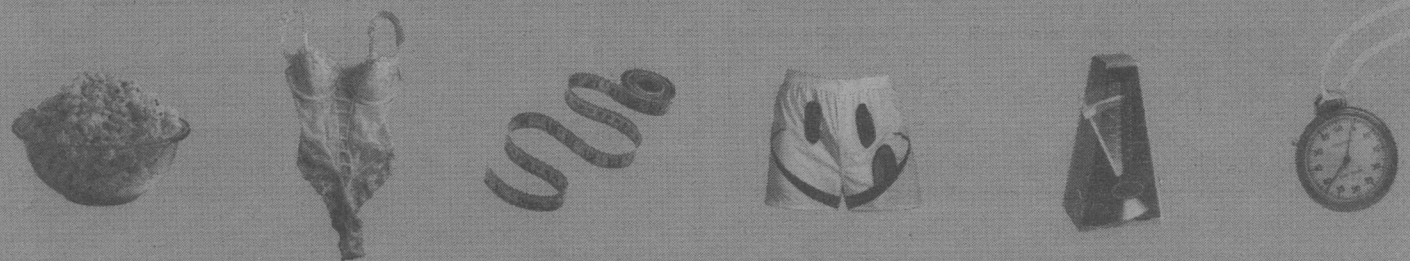
packet of bisexual resources and contacts, including the Bisexual Resource Guide, will be available for a small fee. (More about this packet in the future as it becomes available to the public.)

For me, personally, attending the BiNet USA annual meetings continues to be a great source of solidarity with other social justice activists. It is great to notice that the names of local organizations are becoming more bi inclusive and that true partnership with other queer organizations is not only possible, but is actually happening!

- For more information about BiNet USA contact: PO Box 7327, Langley Park, MD 20787.

- To find out about Vermont BiNet, contact Kim at: mcain@together.net or write us at PO Box 8124, Burlington, VT 05402-8124.

What do you take to bed?



Whatever you take along for pleasure, consider this:
We may feel safe in Vermont, but we're not immune
to AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Don't take a chance...
take a condom



Vermont AIDS Hotline 1.800.882.AIDS

TTY 1.800.319.3141