

Out in the Mountains
Established in 1986

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Mountain Pride Media Board of Directors

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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, 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 20th of the month prior to the month of publication (i.e. February 20th 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

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

EDITORIAL:

Why can't we all get along?

Editors are opinionated people. It seems that it is a prerequisite for an editor to piss people off. As attractive as that seems, it is less attractive in a small community like Vermont, or specifically the GLBT community of Vermont. Unfortunately if I am to piss someone off, there is little chance that I will be able to avoid that person in the future. More often than not, that person and I will be sharing some acquaintance, or friend, if not an ex lover.

On the other hand, if I am not pissing off someone I am not doing anything, and there is just no single possibility of not pissing off someone. Editors come to realize this early I guess, and perhaps that was the birth of the editorial. If there is no way that I won't piss someone off, then I might as well intentionally piss people off, this way I will have more control over who it might be.

Everyone may breathe a sigh of relief, I will not talk about the Women's Council.

Remember the famous statement: "Why can't we all get along?" these were words uttered by one who has never attempted "community building" I'd hazard to guess, at least not in the diversely opinionated GLBT communities.

There is the belief that our diversity is our strength, and despite what I just said, I still believe that. That idea; however, is the first thing all of us forget, and I am probably the first to forget it. Perhaps we should all have that placed on the wall of every organizing meeting, at every board meeting, and at every conference.

But the question remains, can we get along? I am not optimistic. I have; however, watched some people in the community get along with most people they come in to contact and even conflict with. It is inspiring. At the same time, I have seen people whose actions with our community organizations can only be described as destructive or selfish or counter-productive, I don't want to get along with someone like that, and I'm sure I have been accused of all of those things.

In Vermont the most obvious division is Men and Women. Gay men and Lesbians have such different needs, that it sometimes amazes me that we have come this far. Our bodies are different, our attractions are different, our tastes are different. If you think about it, the thing we share most is the same oppressor. It is tribute to our community that we have done so much together. However, I wonder what the future will hold, as gay white men become increasingly marketable and mainstream. In a small community we need to work together, and for the most part we have.

Another division is between the conservatives and Liberals. There is a certain irony that has come about where Vermont the most liberal state in the nation has a primarily conservative gay community. This combination makes it truly fertile for the marriage battle, which is more an agenda of the conservative sector of the gay population.

This division is a tough one when it comes to us wanting the same thing. My opinion on the marriage issue is more complex than I am for or against it. On one hand, with the recent studies that have shown that queer youth are more seven times more likely to attempt suicide, marriage loses all of its urgency. On the other hand, the opponents of gay marriage are our usual enemies, and having them oppose gay marriage puts them on

the defensive rather than the offensive; fighting us rather than making antigay initiatives. Everyone who heard Nancy Sheltra vs. Beth Robinson debate gay marriage on the radio realizes that this is a much better position for our community, at least as long as Beth Robinson is part of it. So when it comes down to it, I don't oppose or support gay marriage.

What I do oppose however is the idea of "straight acting". I have yet to understand what this means. Does this mean acting like Arnold Schwarzenegger, or Jesse Helms, or Bill Clinton? They are all straight and act it. What an incredibly boring world it would be if we all acted like Sylvester Stallone. Imagine the conversation! In our quest for gay marriage do we all have to be monogamous and middle class and straight acting, whatever it means? No, I assume it doesn't. If it did, I would oppose it.

Sorry, I have gotten away from my point which was, "can we get along", and that question is one in which we can only answer with another question: What do we want to achieve? Personally, I want to achieve a world where we all can be who we want to be, regardless of who that might be, within the realm of respect and consent. Maybe this is what most of us want. Maybe it's just the details that trip us up. I assume I will continue to piss people off. I will try to make sure they're the right people.

..... **around vermont**

VIVA

Visible In The Vermont Arts, (VIVA) a group that started two years ago to help present and promote GLBT artists to the community has become a part of Mountain Pride Media, the parent organization to *Out in the Mountains*. Tracey Kommons will be the director and is looking for more people interested in being on a planning committee. The mission of VIVA is to promote GLBT arts and performance in the community, to build community through events, and to raise money for MPM and other nonprofit organizations through collaboration. Up coming events planned are an art show at the VCLGR Conference in Rutland on Nov. 8th, a benefit in December, and a women's music cabaret in January. VIVA will also work on a GLBT film festival perhaps in conjunction with GLITTER, probably in March or April, a Prom for OutRight in May, an event in conjunction with Pride in June, and if all goes well an outdoor women's music festival next summer. People interested in helping out should call Tracey at the OITM office at 865 9294.

THE ROYAL COURT

It may be a long drive from Rutland to WRJ, but it will probably be worth it on Nov. 8th, after the conference, the Royal Court of NYC will be performing a benefit for ACORN at the American Legion hall ball room on South Main Street. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

JAMES DEAN

The Champlain College players will present a year long tribute to James Dean with two new stage adaptations of his first two films. *East Of Eden*, based on the final third of John Steinbeck's epic 1952 novel, will be the fall presentation and is scheduled for Thursday-Saturday Nov. 13-15 and Friday and Saturday Nov. 21-22. All performances are at 8pm in Alumni Auditorium on Champlain College Campus. *Rebel Without A Cause* is the spring production opening on Thursday April 9th. FMI call 860 2797.

GAY LIFELINE

The Gay Info line of New Hampshire is getting to work on the next edition of "The Gay lifeline" which the last issue was a comprehensive listing of the resources available to GLBT residents of New Hampshire and some of Maine and VT. The next edition will be for Vermont and New Hampshire, and will include the help of OITM. The Guide lists resources in various categories including bars, restaurants, accommodations, Social and Support Groups, Student and Youth Groups, Twelve Step Groups, among others. If you are interested in helping, donating or being listed get in touch with OITM, or The Gay Info Line at 26 S. Main St., Box 181, Concord NH 03301 or call at (603) 224-1686.

JIM JEFFORDS

If all of this isn't enough to do, take a minute to call and thank Senator Jim Jeffords for all the work he has done for ENDA. Congress is right now having hearings on the issue, and we are lucky to have such a supportive Republican senator. His number is 1 800 835 5500.

OUR HISTORY

Charles Emond will be teaching his course, "Hidden Hostory: Homosexuality and Western Civilization", at the Community College of Vermont sites in White River Junction and Springfield. According to the catalog: "This course will be a survey of the attitudes of various societies toward homosexuals and homosexuality from the beginnings of Western Civilization to contemporary times. Students will increase their understanding of homosexuality in various societies and their awareness of the contributions of gay men and women to the development of our culture." The course will be offered in Springfield on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 12 starting January 28th (call 802-886-2748). It will be offered in White River Junction on Tuesday night starting January 27th (call 802-295-7513).

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