

*Out in the Mountains*  
Established in 1986

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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:

**Thoughts on the Coaliton Conference**

Rumor had it that a group of people were boycotting the conference because the policy to allow couples in cheaper than people who were single. And then I heard from another local cherished firebrand that she wasn't going because it seemed that the entire coalition is just made up of pro marriage assimilationists. She may have been right, and I pointed out that without her and some other vocal troublemakers, that is exactly how it would appear to everyone.

It did seem like we all got along and agreed on everything, which of course is hardly reality, the conference was a success. We came, we networked, we schmoozed. There was no huge controversy, there was no spirited debate. Nothing like the "Queer" question of conferences past. But honestly I sort of miss having something to take a side on. At the end of the day, at the town meeting part basically we all congratulated ourselves and thanked each other. I miss the passion.

Despite the lack of controversy, despite the lack of criticism, despite the turn out, the truth is that people don't have much faith in the Coalition. No one is sure what the purpose is, and no one wants to be on the coalition. Beside the conference people are hard pressed to say what the VCLGR has done since passage of the gay rights law. According to Keith Goslant, the number one priority of the VCLGR is Gay marriage, which I have a problem with, gay marriage is the focus of the Freedom to Marry Task Force, and if people want to work on that issue, then I encourage them to join the Task Force. Little is achieved by having two organizations work on this.

Every year the question is raised, what should the coalition be doing? Every year a laundry list of issues is rolled out, but every year we seem to have the same vacuum in having the problems dealt with by the coalition. That is not necessarily the fault of the coalition, the list is diverse and disjointed and the coalition isn't really equipped to deal with these issues. For some of the problems, there are already organizations in place, for youth there is OutRight, for the dissemination of information and community building there is Out In The Mountains, for socializing there are W.O.W. and S.A.M. When the coalition was first formed, few if any of these groups existed. Looking at the resource guide in the first OITM there were less than 15 groups, now turn to our source page (pg 9) and take a look. For other issues groups can be formed to deal specifically with them, like the recently formed Same Sex Domestic Violence task Force.

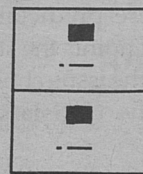
Thanks in part to the work of the coalition we are too large and diverse a community to be served by just one blanket group any more.

By rights a true coalition would be made up of representatives of these groups themselves. And I would like to see a summit of these groups, rather than a coalition that parallels the work of the numerous groups.

I don't know for sure what the coalition should do, but I think that it should seriously consider the option of disbanding altogether and redistributing its resources. At this moment there are only three members, and a lack of focus. Now is the time to do it. I personally want the conference to continue, because it is an important event for our community, but that only needs and would best be served by a planning committee focused on the conference alone.

This is just my opinion, and I hope to hear responses to this. I offer the pages of Out In The Mountains as a forum to address the future of the coalition.

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**Community Resources**

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| <p>ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)<br/>43 State Street<br/>Montpelier, VT 05602<br/>(802) 223-2348</p>  | <p>National Association of Social Workers/<br/>Lesbian and Gay Issues Committee<br/>c/o Box 147<br/>Woodstock, VT<br/>05091</p>   | <p>Vermont AIDS Action Committee<br/>c/o VLGR<br/>Box 281<br/>Hinesburg, VT 05461</p>  |
| <p>Burlington Women's Council<br/>City Hall<br/>Burlington, VT 05401<br/>(802) 658-9300 ext. 125</p>  | <p>PADS (Burlington area women's group)<br/>c/o Mary Bentley<br/>PO Box 242<br/>Winooski, VT 05404</p>  | <p>VGTV (Vermont Gay Volleyball)<br/>Box 248<br/>Hinesburg, VT 05461<br/>(recreational volleyball for all level players, every Sunday 6-8 pm in Burlington)</p>  |
| <p>Colors (bar)<br/>20 Elliot Street<br/>Brattleboro, VT 05301<br/>(802) 254-8646</p>   | <p>Peace and Justice Center<br/>186 College Street<br/>Burlington, VT 05401<br/>(802) 863-8326</p>  | <p>Vermont Interfaith Coalition for<br/>Lesbian and Gay Concerns<br/>c/o Philip Roberts<br/>7-C Blair Road<br/>Essex Junction, VT 05452</p>  |
| <p>Gay/Lesbian AA/Alanon.<br/>Western Avenue, Solar Hills Mansion<br/>Brattleboro, VT 05301<br/>Saturdays at 8 pm</p>   | <p>Pearl's (Bar)<br/>135 Pearl Street<br/>Burlington<br/>(802) 863-2343</p>   | <p>VLGR (Vermonters for Lesbian and<br/>Gay Rights)<br/>Box 281<br/>Hinesburg, VT 05461<br/>(political advocacy, speakers bureau,<br/>community resources, information)<br/>Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7.30<br/>pm, Peace and Justice Center,<br/>Burlington</p> |
| <p>Gay/Lesbian AA<br/>Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 pm<br/>Baird 318, Medical Center Hospital<br/>Sundays at 1 pm<br/>King Street Youth Center<br/>Burlington</p> | <p>RAGS (Rutland Area Gays)<br/>Box 147<br/>Rutland Center, VT<br/>05736</p>  | <p>Women's Health Center<br/>336 North Avenue<br/>Burlington, VT 05401<br/>(802) 863-1386</p>  |
| <p>Integrity (Lesbian and gay Episcopalians,<br/>open to all)<br/>Box 136<br/>Burlington, VT 05402</p>  | <p>SAM (Social Alternatives for Gay Men)<br/>Box 479<br/>Norwich, VT 05055<br/>meets 7.30 pm Tuesdays</p>   | <p>Women Helping Battered Women<br/>P.O. Box 1535<br/>Burlington, VT 05402<br/>hotline (802) 658-1996<br/>office (802) 658-3131</p>  |
| <p>Kwanzaa<br/>Box 583<br/>Burlington, VT 05402<br/>(black, native American and third<br/>world cultural, educational and resource<br/>group)</p>                     | <p>UVM-GLSA (University of Vermont<br/>Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance)<br/>Box 87, Wright Hall,<br/>Redstone Campus<br/>UVM<br/>Burlington, VT 05405<br/>(802) 658-0723</p> |  |




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# 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