

Out in the Mountains
Established in 1986

Editor: Christopher Moes
Business Manager: Steven West
Design Manager: Donald Eggert
Circulation Manager: David Grist
Website Manager: Lenna Cumberbatch
Proofreader: Elizabeth Hansen
Office Manager: Tracy Kommons
Sales: Donna Freeman, Roger Mapes
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Computer Support: Amy Hoffman
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Contributors: Andrew Campbell, Kerry A. Slova, Odysea, Miki Thomas, Iren Smolarski, Kimberly A. Ward, Bob Bland, John Hannah, DD Taylor-Garcia, Gwynn Guilford, Michael C. Albero, Crow Cohen, Pickles, Bennett Law, James Montstream, Peter Kurth, Steven Stowell, Lynn Martin, Donald Giguere, Betsy McLane, Carey V. Johnson, 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, Susan Murray, 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.

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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 I Do What I Do

When I took over this paper, I was struck by the challenges that it faces. I felt as a community run Non-profit, this paper should represent the entire community.

An enormous challenge in an opinionated, diverse community that often is only a community out of political expedience, or from the fact that we often share an enemy. This community may encompass people I don't particularly like, and some of its members may represent values which I am against. But the bottom line is this is my community. We are in this for a reason, and I believe in this community. Particularly I believe in this community in Vermont, and I have chosen to be a part of it for a reason. No where else where we find a diversity of opinion, a willingness to come together and understand each other. In Vermont the shallowness of the urban queer culture is a distant theme park we can visit on summer weekends. Vermont's gay community is a place where when someone dies or leaves there is a noticeable loss - this does not happen in Boston or NY. The one generalization I feel I can make about this community, is that I don't think anyone, even the most enlightened activist, truly knows how huge it is.

The Gay Press has a responsibility to its community, and it is a barometer of the health of this community. I have envisioned OITM to be the "Forum" of the GLBT community in VT. What "Forum" means to me as opposed to "newspaper" is that we communicate with each other, we are not merely communicated to by a group of people who have decided to go into the newspaper business. This to me is sacred, as is this community. This is why this paper exists as a nonprofit. I want this newspaper to encompass all our voices. From the 16 year old sending petitions around his high school to a man who slips it into his bag at an adult book store. To Lesbians on a commune, to bisexual women in relationships with men. To any of the thousands of lives we have found ourselves in. I believe in this community, and this paper, and the power that putting all of our voices in print for each other to read can mean in this world where we still are denied very basic rights.

But we are not there, we are far from there, and we need a lot of things to get there. Take a minute to think about all of this. This is your paper.

In the next month we will be asking you to donate money to help us buy a computer, please donate money, or equipment if you have it. We need Macintosh equipment spe-

cifically. We also need software. If you have picked this paper up at one of our drop off sights, you are most likely not on our donor list. Please consider making a donation, just the same.

Donate your time, we will always need volunteers. Write for this paper. We all have something to say, and all have something that even needs to be said. I have found that the greatest detriment toward getting people to write is confidence, nothing else. All writing has value, all voices deserve to be heard. It does take courage to put yourself out there, and that simple act is overlooked by our wordy culture.

Advertise. The wealth of our community is not just abstract. Our advertisers have chosen to be a part of our community. But the irony is that advertising here pays off, it is a lucrative way to increase your business, to cultivate a clientele of people that are part of your community. People tend to think about advertising in OITM as a donation, as nice thing to do. However, many of our advertisers know it pays off. You actually win twice over, because people see you supporting an organization which is a community based nonprofit. Being a part of a community and supporting it are two different things.

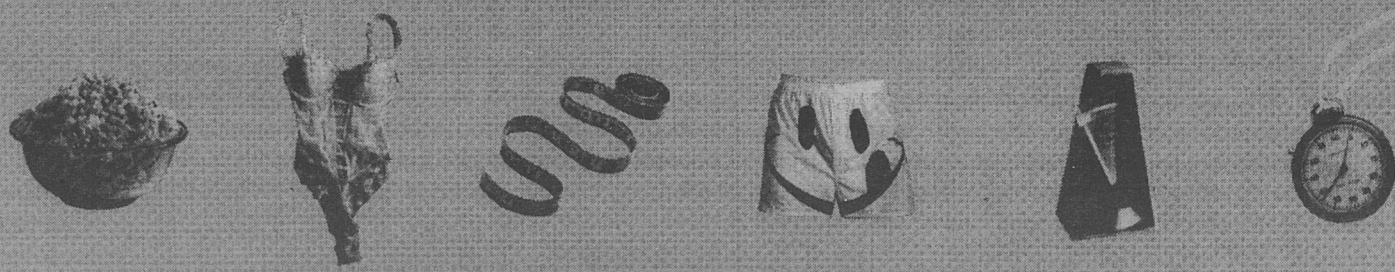
Talk to me. This is your paper, what do you want it to do for you? How do you want it to support our community? I have heard it said that people are afraid to make suggestions like this, because then the next question is how will you help. Well, be prepared to be asked how you are willing to help, but even if you don't have time, give your feedback.

The future of *Out In The Mountains*. The paper has had a great deal of luck with volunteer editors, and a great deal of people have donated their time, because this paper is something we believe in. However, as our community flourishes and becomes more expansive, so do its needs. The organization which runs this paper has always been one that has been confronted with a great deal of work and demands. It is becoming less feasible to have this paper run as a volunteer-based organization. To have a dynamic paper that reflects our voices, and our community, we need to have stability.

As I write this I wonder if I am making too great a demand on this paper or on this community, I hope not. I want to leave this paper as a working forum for the Vermont community, and one that we can all be proud of.

(802-865-9294 - oitm@together.net)

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