

Out in the Mountains
Established in 1986

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

EDITORIAL:

The Tyranny of the Majority

In Maine last week, the majority spoke. OK, maybe not the actual majority, the majority stayed home. The majority in Maine that went out to prevent a minority from having rights was about 16% of the registered voters. That is the "majority" that the Christian right is raving about now in this most recent victory in the cause of denying civil rights.

Well at least it couldn't happen in Vermont, right?

Wrong. The word going around is that there is a move to put citizen's initiatives of this sort into practice in Vermont. The move is being pushed by the Act 60 foes to make sure that the people continue to control their government. What this translates to, though, by historical example, is the removal of minority rights by a majority, like in Maine, like in Colorado, like in California with Prop 209. What does this mean in Vermont? It means that Take it To the People, if they are able to insure that marriage and its associated rights are denied to us, will then begin to dismantle the other rights we have worked so hard to achieve.

Very simply, Take It To The People is motivated by the idea that if the majority of the people want something, then it must be right. This idea is so obviously reactionary and so dangerous it surprises me that it would even be used in Vermont. Or has the National numbing about democracy been so deep that it has dumbed down this population entirely? Majorities have made many extensive decisions about the fate of minorities. A majority of Germans wanted the final solution. A majority of Southerners wanted slavery and, when that was gone, smaller majorities went around in mobs dispensing justice. When Take It To The People says majority, they simply mean us and them, those who have the rights and privileges vs. those of us who don't because of our numbers.

We have come a long way from our long history of oppression in this country on so many levels Women — African Americans, Native Americans, the working poor. For the majority American history, the nation has been controlled by a small number of land owning men. But we also have as part of our past a disruption of the oppression of minorities. There have been heroic decisions by the supreme court to protect minority rights to education, intermarriage, unions, equal pay and grass roots movements to maintain and establish fairness. But the vestiges of our history still surround us — the urban poor, the flight of union jobs to Mexico, prisons with disproportionate numbers of people of color. Gay and lesbian people need

The past several weeks have reinforced something I already knew. Ours is a generous and supportive community.

But, I must admit, I really never realized just how many groups and individuals were out just waiting to be asked.

Mountain Pride Media, *Out in the Mountains'* parent organization, did just that last month and the response truly has been overwhelming. To all of you who have responded to our request for assistance, thank you so much.

Many, many people have sent in donations both small and surprisingly large. Others have subscribed or renewed their subscriptions to the newspaper, which will be an ongoing source of support.

We've also had out right donations of computer equipment that are so critical to our production. We owe many thanks to Vermont CARES, Joseph Ryan, Tina Giangrande, and the Physicians Computer Co. for all of their support.

There also have been a handful of people upon whom we have relied for invaluable advice on how to go about asking and then putting together the mailing. They are people like Bob Bland of Vershire, who doesn't even serve on our board but who gave generously of his time, expertise and advice. Thank you, Bob.

Two members of our board also deserve special recognition for their help. Steven Kopstein and Cheryl Carmi have both put in a great deal of time on this project and it has been appreciated.

We truly think we have made great strides in the past couple of years under the capable leadership of former Editor Hugh Coyle and current Editor Chris Moes. *Out in the Mountains* continues to grow and we believe it shows in each succeeding issue. It's never easy, though, and so we thank all of you who have donated your time and money, as well as your dollars for advertising and subscriptions. We will continue striving to meet the legitimate expectations you, our community, have for us.

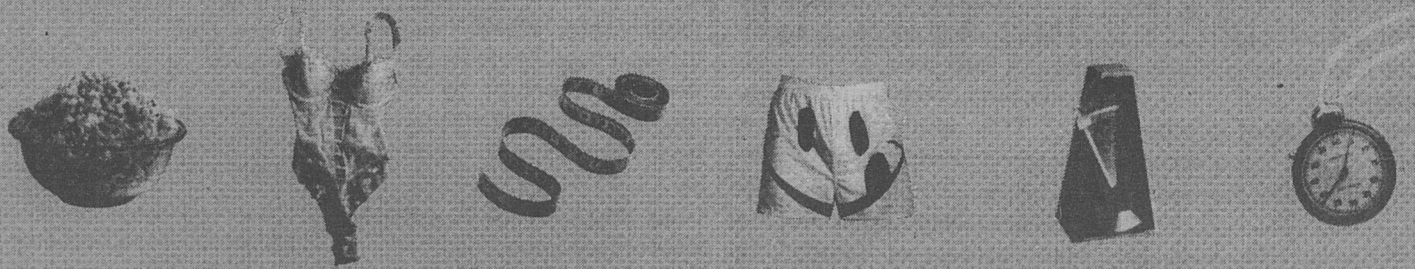
— Ross Sneyd, president, Mountain Pride Media board.



to understand how our rights are linked to everyone's rights. Gay men need to understand misogyny. We all need to understand racism better.

The tyranny of the majority is ironic when you consider that all the minorities combined they form the majority. This is something that the minority in power doesn't want any of us to understand and act on.

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

