

letters

OITM, POB 177, Burlington, VT 05402-0177 or oitm@together.net

My name is John Quinlan and I'm a contributing writer and promotions coordinator for *Alternative Family Magazine*. While the magazine is based in California, I make my home in Wisconsin.

I've been bouncing all over the Internet searching for contact info these last couple of weeks. I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed your web site in particular.

I was also especially pleased to see the well-written article you did on Bill Lippert. Bill was my roommate at a GLBT foundations conference in Seattle a couple of years ago, and while I knew some of his story, it was fascinating to read about the full depth and breadth of his activism.

One of the things about the Internet that never ceases to amaze me is the interesting connections and reconnections you can with people from all over. Thanks again for a great article, and as we launch this new venture, I hope there will be opportunities for cooperation in the future. By the way, if you run into Bill at some point, please say hi for me.

Sincerely,
John Quinlan
Madison, Wisconsin
(JLQuinlan@msn.com)

active again.

3) unprotected sex infects the receptive partner with potentially new strains of virus.

4) unprotected sex infects the receptive partner with virus which has become resistant to medication, limiting the treatment options.

John's comments remind me of those who have turned their back on the realities of life, trying to blot out the truth which demands personal and collective responsibility. I find his article sad, and dangerous. I write this as a warning: beware of false profits[sic]! There is no safety with HIV. Period.

John Wellen
Colchester

[I suggest that if you have documented evidence of reinfection, you should produce it. In the meantime, try to get up to speed on what's really going on in the world with respect to HIV and AIDS. "POZ Magazine" is an excellent resource and if you have access to the internet, the Aegis Mailing List will tap you into the most comprehensive HIV and AIDS data base in the world. The address is www.aegis.com.]

John Hannah

As seems to be a regular occurrence recently, after reading a story in your paper by Paul Olsen someone needs to (or should) respond, clarify and/or defend themselves from a statement included in his writing.

In the second to last paragraph of his travelogue, Paul writes: "I made it home in time to attend the annual Winter is a Drag Ball. A fun party that benefits Vermont CARES. I'm still trying to figure out why The Sisters LaMe(sic) would schedule a competing event at Pearls. And Marguerite(sic) accuses me of having a personal vendetta? Oh well, that's another story."

Yes, it is, and if Paul would ask his questions BEFORE submitting his story, he would save everyone time and OITM ink and space. By responding to Paul here, I would just perpetuate a war of words whose meanings would be lost from each month's to month's

tit-for-tat. And I would never get the last word - which is not the case while I'm performing.

Sincerely,
Amber LeMay
with much help from
Bob Bolyard
Burlington

PS: And no, it isn't Margaurite who has mentioned your vendetta, it's me, Amber. Margaurite is the nice one. But I wouldn't push it if I were you.

The Vermont chapter of Veterans for Peace (VFP) is mounting an effort to eliminate Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs from Vermont High Schools. JrROTC programs currently exist at three Vermont High Schools and the Pentagon is attempting to increase the number of JrROTC units nationwide.

A legal challenge to JrROTC is one of the means we plan to explore. We believe that JrROTC violates Chapter 139, Title 9, paragraphs 4502 and 4501 of the Vermont State Statutes. JrROTC offers benefits that are not available to all students who might complete the course. These benefits are college scholarships for college ROTC and advanced pay grade for those enlisting, benefits unavailable to disabled, openly homosexual, or openly lesbian students. Also discrimination most likely exists in firing retired military because instructors must meet and maintain standards acceptable to the military.

VFP is looking for help on this project and would like to know if you would join in the effort to remove existing and prevent additional JrROTC units in Vermont schools. We have a special need for legal advice and assistance.

Our next meeting is April 8, 1998. I can be contacted at 130 Saxie Welch Trail, So. Ryegate, VT 05069.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW
15 SOUTH PLEASANT STREET
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT
05753

BURLINGTON OFFICE:
275 COLLEGE STREET
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05402
802-864-0217

AREA CODE: 802
TELEPHONE: 388-6356
HOME PHONE: 877-3165
FAX #: 388-6149

Barebacking is self-suicide and fellow genocide.

I read with great interest and amazement John Hannah's most recent article proclaiming the safety and the sanity of unprotected sex between HIV positive men, in which body fluids are passed from one man to another. John is living in a world of self-inflicted distortion of reality, sadly, and in his world of denial he is hurting himself and others. He reminds me of a cutter; someone who cuts themselves and proclaims that it is not a problem really at all.

The fact of the matter is more than well documented. Anyone who is thinking honestly knows these facts:

1) there are a variety of strains of HIV

2) each strain becomes resistant to medication, and the virus reappears and becomes

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FIGHT THE RIGHT!

A panel discussion featuring Sue Hyde of the NGLTF (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force), Peggy Luhrs, former director of the Burlington Women's Council, and Stan Baker from The Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force.

Tuesday, April 14th, 7:00pm, McCullough Student Center,
Middlebury College - FMI 388-0750