

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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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 *Out in the Mountains*. 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

EDITORIAL

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

According to Gloria Gibson, spokesperson for the Catholic Diocese, who attended the meeting called in December where two experts on gay marriage spoke, "A number of the people there had met on this question and a few more joined them there. I feel that this meeting was where TIP was born."

The meeting was called by Bishop Angel, and members of the Burlington Ecumenical Society were all invited. Gloria Gibson also revealed that the Diocese donated 200 dollars to the fund to print up the flier, but knew nothing about where the rest of the money came from. When I asked her what the Bishop thought about the mission statement that directly states that "Homosexual Rights" is a priority of the group. At first she knew nothing about it and denied that it was the mission statement. However she returned my call the next day by stating that they were unaware of the mission statement as filed with the State, and that they were pressing for a re-filing. The statement was an error on which she blamed "lawyers."

The problem is that TIP is an organization that is both covertly and overtly pushing for bigotry against Gay and Lesbian people. The Bishop stated in a press release that he will not support a group that harbors these motives. Unfortunately, it seems the Bishop wanted to separate the anti gay marriage fight from the anti gay rights fight. Anyone who has watched this fight knows that there is no separating the two. Fighting gay marriage can only be an anti-gay battle. The Bishop somehow thought he could form a coalition with some of the state's most notorious opponents of gay rights, Craig Benson,

Jerry Smiley, Dick Trudell, and have the group focus on "the marriage question" but not appear to be inspiring bigotry or violence against "our brothers and sisters of homosexual orientation."

Tip also commissioned a survey of Vermonters to find out if people are against gay marriage, part of that very same survey was the question "do you approve or disapprove of elementary and secondary schools in Vermont teaching that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle?" A question that has nothing to do with same gender marriage, but specifically about education and rights.

The most homophobic thing that TIP has done, and the act that is most likely to stir up bigotry and violence against the GLBT community was the flier that was distributed in five daily papers across the state. The flier painted gay people as outsiders, and not people, but subversives that are attempting to dismantle Vermont and America. The usual right wing propaganda, and the usual assault that every time — in Hawaii, in Maine, in Oregon and Colorado — leads to an increase of Violence against gay people.

Perhaps the Bishop has a different idea of what bigotry is, or perhaps the Bishop has found it easier to have anti bigotry PR, while working with a group whose goal is the persecution of his "Brothers and sisters of homosexual orientation." The question will only be answered if

the Bishop pulls the diocese support out of TIP, rather than petitions the group to change a statement that reflects the groups obvious intent. Either way, he should know that actions speak louder than words.

OITMnews...

■ *Out In The Mountains* and Goddard College's GLBT alliance will sponsor an organizers summit open and free to all people who work organize and participate in the GLBT community in Vermont. People from all parts of the state are encouraged to come, people from different perspectives are encouraged to come. The all day meeting will feature a panel "Diversity in VT, what does it mean to us?" and an open forum called "working together." We hope to be able to come up with a list of goals for our community to achieve over the next year. People who do not work or volunteer in the community but are interested in doing so are encouraged to come as well.

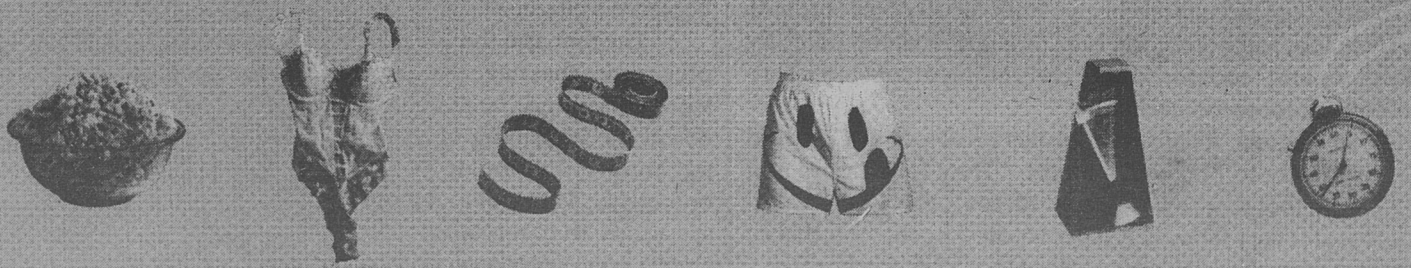
The summit will begin at 10am July 18th in the Hay barn theater at Goddard College in Plainfield. Wheelchair accessible. Please indicate need for an ASL interpreter. For more info, or to help organize, please call 865 9294.

■ The August OITM will be the Poetry and Photography issue of OITM. We are seeking poetry and photography (Black and White) that reflects the GLBT experience in Vermont. Please send typed poems and Black and White Prints to OITM PO Box 177 Burlington VT 05402 by June 15th.

■ Become a Part of *Out In The Mountains*, Help your community, and get paid for it! OITM is looking for advertising representatives to sell ads for Vermont's fastest growing Newspaper. Full or part time, no experience necessary. Must be self motivated, personable. Does not need to live in Burlington. FMI call 802 865 9294.

■ OITM is also looking for an Arts and Entertainment editor. The Editor will coordinate or write reviews, previews, and features about literature, drama, music and other entertainment related material. As well as coordinate related advertising. FMI call 865 9294.

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.