

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 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.

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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EDITORIAL

Some Thoughts on Pride

As VT-Pride goes into its fourth straight year of controversy it seems like it is definitely time to reflect on why it cannot be June with out some squabble playing itself out. And more often than not playing itself out in the mainstream straight press.

For those of you just tuning, in there was the Dis-inviting of Barbara Snelling, there was the renaming of Pride to Unity day, of course, last year's Pride Pig ad, and this year — well, choose one.

There have been questions about conflicts of interest as volunteers made decisions that benefited their employers or friends, there have been questions about how much money is being spent, questions about what sort of outreach has been done, questions about the need to have alcohol served at the event, and questions about paying a straight band money that GLBT performers raised by donating their time.

Well before someone says, "Why can't we get along?" I will tell you. Because people are making decisions that effect the entire community without taking into account the entire community. I'm all for getting along, but not if that means silencing my concerns when someone is doing something that should be questioned. There is no question that there is a great deal of work for us to do as a community.

Besides, not getting along is how we grow as a community. We argue and fight because we care about the results, and that is important. And we don't argue and fight more or less than other groups of people gay or straight. In fact, looking at certain other examples such as judges, city councils, food co-ops, hospital labor and gubernatorial candidates, we get along surprisingly well.

It may seem a contradiction, taking into account my objections, but I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard now and in the past at making this event take place. It's rarely easy but often thankless.

So, it occurs to me, despite all of the nonsense about pride, that we here in our lovely state have a great deal to be proud of,

and I may have said similar things before but I am proud to be queer, I am proud to be a member of this community, and I am proud to be the driver of this bus we call *Out In The Mountains*.

I am really proud about how our community has dealt with marriage. The people in the Freedom To Marry Task Force have been a model of getting work done and working together; they have been inspirational. At the same time, people who are not interested in the issue or who oppose it have not done anything to stand in the way of those who want it. This potentially divisive issue, has not been at all.

I am proud of Vermont's GLBT youth activists who have

worked to make and find safe space to come together and to make our community more open and diverse. I have no fears about the future of the movement. I am proud of the OutRight staff, too, whom I have had the pleasure of seeing in action. They too have been a model of working together often thanklessly toward a common goal.

I am proud to be a part of a community which is rural, organized, active and where people care about each other. This is a concept which few people in the urbo-centric, American queer culture are capable of grasping.

After talking to Lisa Morphew from Asheville NC, where the Klan has announced plans to protest Gay Pride, I am proud to live in a state like Vermont which generally values people, human rights, community, and the environment. A place where Take It To The People can be shown for what they are, a crack pot group of reactionaries. In some states, this type of person is often called Senator.

I am proud to be an heir to a state and a movement where so many people have gotten us to where we are. What we have didn't happen

by accident. With a most of the generation preceding us wiped out by AIDS, it becomes our duty for us to honor our predecessors.

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EDITORIAL, p12

OITMnews...

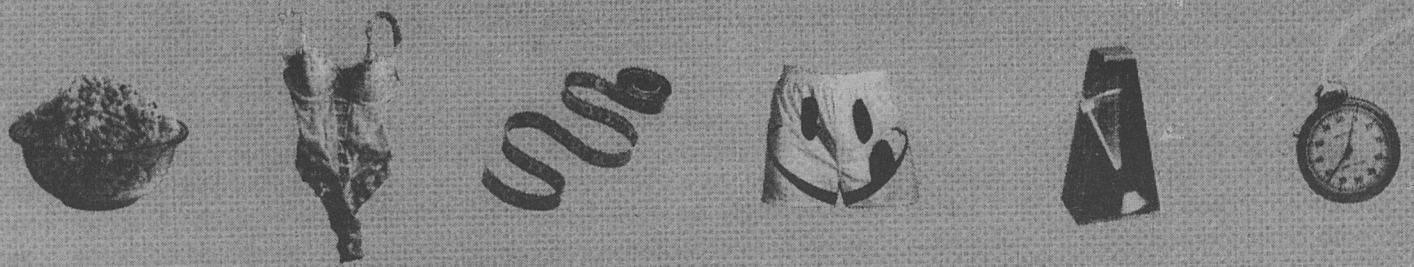
■ *Out In The Mountains* and Goddard College's GLBT alliance will sponsor an organizers summit open and free to all people who work organize and participate in the GLBT community in Vermont. People from all parts of the state are encouraged to come, people from different perspectives are encouraged to 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.

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

