

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.

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EDITORIAL

Moes' Parting Thoughts & Shots

HRC SPEAKER POOR
CHOICE FOR VERMONT
MEETING

So this is my final issue, and I have much I want to say about that, but first I need to get this off my chest:

I am really disappointed that the VCLGR has invited Winnie Stachelberg to be the keynote speaker at the annual "our" town meeting. Although this might be the only opportunity for the HRC to find out where Vermont is.

The HRC has stood out as an organization who is the domain primarily of Gay white men with a great deal of money who live in one of the three or four urban gay meccas. As for rural queers, forget it. As for anyone who doesn't have political clout or the cause du jour, face it you are out of luck. In the words of the former head of the HRC, Tim McFeeley, "I think the HRC is clearly defined as a white person's organization. HRC will not be as comfortable a place to black gay people as their own."

The HRC also has a pretty prominent history of running over local and grassroots organizations, both in their fundraising and their usurpation of local groups' space/profile/media time.

An excellent example of the work the HRC has done homogenizing us is when The HRC had the word Transgendered removed from the Employment Non Discrimination Act, or ENDA. The hope was that the removal of the word would make it more palatable to congress. But that shouldn't bother the VCLGR who hasn't even bothered to add Transgendered to their name let alone fight for legal protections of Transgendered people in Vermont.

The HRC has also been instrumental in organizing the so called "Millennium March" on Washington. This march stands in contrast to earlier marches on Washington in that it isn't being put together by a coalition of organizations as they had, but is instead the project of the HRC and the Metropolitan Community Churches. Troy Perry the leader of the gay evangelical church has presented this event as an opportunity for the church to gain thousands of new members.

The Millennium march has been attacked from all sides, by people who feel that our resources should be spent on a state level, to others complaining about the refusal of the organizers to work with other groups in shaping a more inclusive march. Many are offended by the theme "Faith and Family" which caters to a

Christian and conservative aesthetic and message while excluding people who don't think only in the Family or Fear of God confines of white middle class America. Despite the division throughout the communities, the HRC and MCC steam forward.

The HRC has never really done anything for rural people or for smaller cities, or really anyone outside the Chelsea, Dupont Circle, W. Hollywood, South End continuum. They are happy to take our money should they stumble across it but don't expect much of anything in return. The HRC is far more interested in Their fearless leader Ann Birch having her lips firmly planted on Bill "DOMA" Clinton's ass. Bill Clinton who throws us an occasional bone, has seen persecutions against gay and Lesbian service members increase far beyond what it had been before his "Don't ask, Don't tell policy."

But you can guarantee that the HRC will be able to bring out a Transgendered person, or a person of color to sing its praises. It is far easier to find someone willing to do that then to actually make an effort to create an organization which speaks for anyone but the highest bidder.

Most of the large national organizations, like HRC or AIDSride are not interested in Vermonters or the well being of rural people. They are interested in making money. The HRC has transformed the movement into one big marketing opportunity for their equality logo.

If Vermont is going to survive the onslaught of a calculated right wing it is not going to be by the likes of the HRC who couldn't organize a rural state if they were loggers. Just like AIDSride, GLBT Vermonters are going to have to use our own precious resources, and protect those resources from being drawn out by savvy PR outfits like AIDSride or the HRC.

GOOD-BYE

I want to take a minute and thank everyone who has been so helpful and gracious to me and OITM over the last year and a half. Its true that when something goes wrong I generally get the blame, but at the same time when things go well I generally get the credit. But the truth is that this paper is and continues to be a project of the GLBT community of Vermont and neighboring regions, and it is the energy, the intelligence and the compassion of this community that makes this paper something we should all be proud of.

I am not worried about the future of this paper, be-

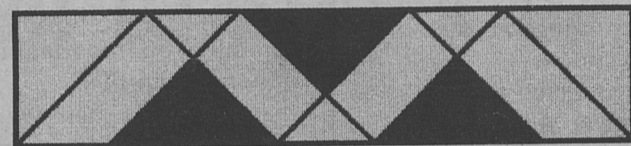
cause it will be run by the creative and thoughtful energy of Barb Dozetos and many volunteers, under the guidance of a Mountain Pride Media Board which is really the finest and most professional group of people I have ever seen assembled under one goal. With Bennett Law in the president's chair and his selfless dedication to the diverse needs of our statewide community, I can't imagine a more optimistic future.

Editing this paper has brought me in contact with a great many incredible people,

far too many to name, and it has taken me across and up and down this state. I have a new appreciation for places like Bennington and Rutland and St. Johnsbury. In each of these towns and cities and so many others I have met GLBT people working and living, and who are an integral part of their local communities and part of a larger GLBT network that is very much a community, one which few people realize its actual size. There is a wealth of people in this com-

GOODBYE, p20

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE

MOUNTAIN PRIDE MEDIA
BOARD OF DIRECTORSTo *Out in the Mountains'* Readers:

CHRIS MOES MOVES ON

The October issue is the last for Chris Moes as Editor of *Out in the Mountains*. During his year-long tenure, Chris worked tirelessly to advance the paper in a number of areas, always through a 'round-the-clock dedication to participating in and reaching out to Vermont's GLBT community.

It's easy to reel off a list of visible, concrete improvements implemented by Chris and his band of volunteers during the past year, among them:

Most noticeably, Chris helped update the look of the paper to a more visually stimulating, engaging periodical.

Not only are there a host of new, regular columnists (including clergy and a psychologist), but Health & Fitness and Arts & Entertainment sections have been introduced into the paper in an effort to address additional aspects of our lives.

The classifieds have been revitalized, and gender parity has been achieved among cartoons!

Through Chris' efforts, the number of drop-off sites has tripled. We are now printing 6000 copies each month, which are distributed to subscribers and through 250 drop-off sites around the state and throughout New England (and even in Washington, DC, where it has been reported that the paper fetches \$1.00 a copy for its vendor).

Monthly ad revenues from the paper jumped to as high as \$3000, providing the funds needed to provide limited stipends to a couple of the volunteers without whom the paper would not be completed each month.

But for all his energy and dedication to producing a monthly paper, Chris' greater contribution has been to articulate and advocate for a loftier vision of *Out in the Mountains* before the Mountain Pride Media board. Chris has pushed endlessly to move us all away from comparing the paper to its former self in favor of visualizing the paper of the future, and has instigated efforts to map a plan for realizing that future. Not only does Chris leave a legacy of advancements at the paper, but through his insightful and dogged recruitment of board members, he will have a lasting impact on Mountain Pride Media. All of us at Mountain Pride Media extend our thanks and gratitude to Chris for living his commitment to our community.

NEW EDITOR NAMED

Next month, Barbara Dozetos, who has served as Copy Editor during the past six months, steps up to be the paper's next editor. Readers know her as the author of the monthly column "Progeny," exploring the issues specific to GLBT parents and their children. We at Mountain Pride Media know her as an energetic, enthusiastic woman passionate about continuing to build *Out in the Mountains* as a constructive instru-

A MESSAGE, p20