

Conference Receives Mixed Reviews

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everyone in our community reads *Out In The Mountains* because on the day of the conference I heard people telling [me] that I did not advertise the conference very well. We sent out around 2,000 brochures and had it in *OITM* for three months." Stated Virginia Renfrew.

Steve Kopseien made a suggestion about the tone of the advertising, saying "I think that the organizers probably needed to do better marketing of the event — 'just a reminder to mark your calendar' is hardly an attention-getting device."

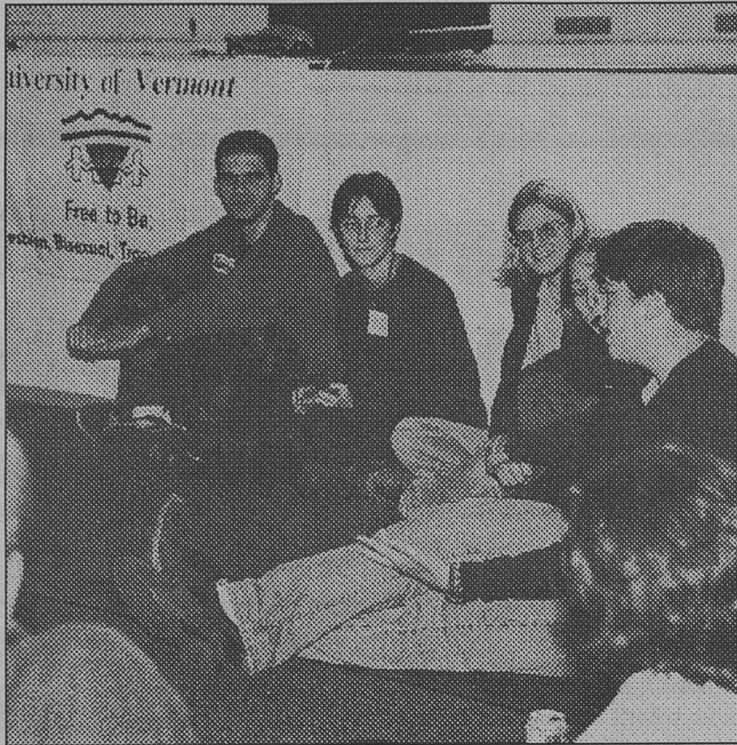
Mack Roark did read the advertising in *OITM*, but explained his non-attendance by saying "I read the itinerary for this years event and it looked like a yawn. There was only one workshop that caught my eye and that simply was not enough. Bottom line: It looked about as stimulating as watching the grass grow."

Both during and after the conference there were questions about how workshops were selected or what the process for facilitating a workshop was. Virginia Renfrew said, "Very few people contacted me about doing a workshop. I called organizations — including the transgender — those that called me back had workshops."

Renfrew expressed concern for the future of the annual conference, "The VCLGR board is seriously considering not having a conference next year. Financially it may not be possible."

On the VTPRIDENET email list Maryann Parrot posed this question for future conferences. "Could there be more advertising so that we, as a VT community would hear the invitation to send in brief proposals around a particular theme for next year?"

Steve Kopstein offered constructive ideas to draw more people to a future event, "Don't be afraid to include controversial topics like sex, outrageous politics, wild and wonderful and wacky things like a pie contest or something silly and fun." ▼



Young and Old Conference-Goers Grapple With the Issues

Community youth and seniors voiced concerns during their conference workshops.

photos: Scot Applegate

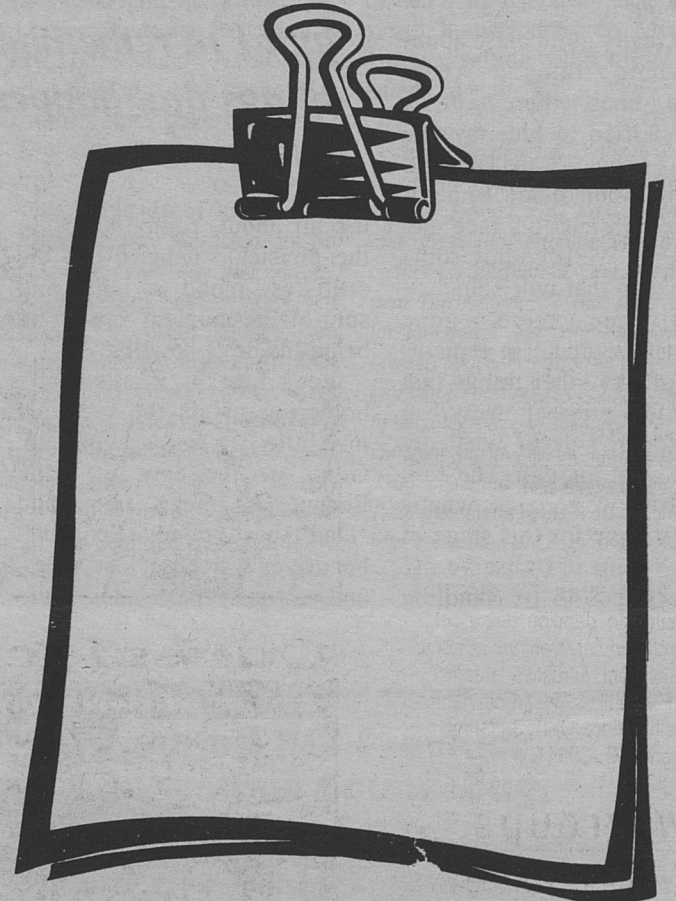


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