

# letters

OITM, PO Box 1078, Richmond, VT 05477-1078 or oitm@together.net

## Kudos to Henning and Emond

Editor:

The paper looks GREAT! My subscription lapsed a while ago, so I've sent in a renewal. The whole thing is a joy to read and a wonderful service to our community.

I'm delighted that Charlie Emond is doing the history column. Right on Charlie!

And I ask for advice. I received a solicitation to fund the NGLTF "equality begins at home" campaign. I would like to fund this on the local level rather than filtering funds through the national organization. Please advise if there is an avenue to support Vermont activities for that week. Thanks.

Please forward these thoughts to your highly talented Thomas Henning.

Dear Tommy World - Thanks so much for your great piece on the holidays. I am so much reminded of David Solaris's (sic) work in your storytelling that I propose you do a collaboration with him - kind of like "Queer Chronicles" where you quiz each other about past experiences and reflect on each other's tales of woe, joy, love and compassion for this strange-but-true existence we live.

In any case, keep up the fine writing. I am always entertained, challenged and delighted by your work.

John Tidd  
Bridgewater Corners, VT

## Comments for Sheets and Sanders

Editor:

I saw and was quite unsettled by the article by Morgan Sheets in your December issue.

[Morgan,] if the truth be known, BiNet USA has been having a lot of trouble with inclusion on the HRC front and I was disturbed by the lack of mention of trans and bi issues in your article. Not because I think HRC is doing anything that is truly inclusive in deed, but because I know you are aware that gay and lesbian are not the only issues at hand and was surprised you did not take

care to be inclusive in your language.

HRC has been paying more lip service than anything to being inclusive. Bend your ear to the HRC pavement for me and find out if I am just not on target with this.

In a recent 'supportive' letter on trans issues, HRC called an f to m trans person a man. In the whole discussion on the millennium march, HRC has not been cooperative, nor have they been in contact with many of the people they claimed were supporting their march.

Even though HRC has signed on to be an ally to BiNet USA, they did not sign on to our rebuttle ad for the gay 'conversion' ads the religious right has been running.

This is enough to make me leery. More has gone on that has put me off completely.

I just ask that you keep an ear to the ground and hope, as a bi Vermonter, I can rest assured that there is a Vermonter looking out for my interests as well while you are down there.

It [also] concerns me greatly that Skeeter Saunders is not checking his statistics with his glorious rants against the machine.

Though I think it is good that SOMEONE is addressing the issue at the root of all of this 'right to marriage' struggle, whether marriage itself is a lesser of two evils or not, I would urge you to check your authors when they submit articles with supposed 'statistics in them. Where did he find the stat on violence being higher in married couples than in others? I had addressed this very question to him before he submitted the article and he said he really didn't remember, but would check.

And remember, Skeeter, we all have a right to build our lives as we wish, so if you propose that we abandon same sex marriage, give us a better alternative. Give generously and give details!

Kim Ward  
BiNet VT, BiNet USA

## Invitation to Bland

Editor:

I am responding to Bob Bland's letter in the December 1998 issue of OITM. It is unfor-

tunate that Bob decided not to attend the conference this year. It would have been great to have his input in the planning of the conference. I started asking for input for the October conference in April. In July, the VCLGR board had to make a decision about whether to have the conference at all, because NO ONE from the community responded to our requests for help in the planning. I committed to planning it, because I felt it was an important event.

As you may all recall, the organization TIP put a flyer in every newspaper in Vermont in March - members of the community were outraged. I decided that the conference needed to address this issue; after all, we are Vermonters, too, despite the claims to the contrary by TIP.

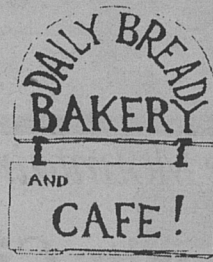
As a result of the lack of planning support, I basically coordinated this conference on my own. Considering the fact that I work a full-time job, I would have welcomed any help I could get. I thought the conference went well. We did have workshops on family and marriage, but there were also workshops on using the web to stay in touch, youth, growing old (which we will all do), dealing with homophobia, money, health, and bisexuality.

If the planning and coordinating energy is out there, as Bob claims, where was it last summer? The mission of this conference is not only to bring our community together; it is also to raise money for VCLGR so that we may better serve our community and address the issues of concern to us. Two years ago the conference lost money and this year we broke even. Perhaps more involvement in the planning and generation of ideas would have led to a different result.

VCLGR is looking forward to this next year and to, possibly, another conference. I will be sure to put Bob's e-mail address in my address book. He will be one of the first people I contact to help with the planning!

Virginia Renfrew  
VCLGR Co-Liaison

• **Out In the Mountains** welcomes your letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. See editorial policy for additional guidelines.

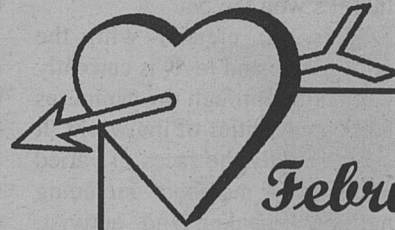


Every batch made from scratch...

Sweet Rolls • Muffins • Granola Bars  
Cakes • Cookies — including low-fat, naturally sweetened & vegan selections  
And Bread Too!

BAKERY OPEN: M-F 6-6 Sat & Sun 6-4  
Breakfast Mon-Fri 6-11  
Brunch Sat & Sun 8-1  
Lunch Mon-Sat 11-4

Bridge Street  
Richmond  
434-3148



February 12-14  
Bring your Valentine to

The Spa  
A WOMEN'S PLACE

and stay in beautiful private accommodations in Vermont.

Enjoy... Candlelight Dinner  
Whirlpool  
Massage

all for \$275/couple

RICHMOND • 434-2037  
THE SPAVT@AOL.COM

STRATEGY

DESIGN

SUCCESS

Accolade Group  
Internet Publishing

Check Out Our New  
Web Page Design

802.859.8972

ofb@village.trade.com

www.village.trade.com/accolade



By subscribing now to *Out in the Mountains*, not only will you get delivery to your mailbox (in an envelope), but you also help underwrite the rising costs of publishing and distributing the newspaper. We welcome any additional contributions you can make to support this and other important publishing projects. Checks should be made payable to Mountain Pride Media, and sent, along with this card to:

OITM, PO Box 1078, Richmond, VT 05477-1078

Name .....

Address .....

Town ..... State ..... Zip .....

1 year (\$20)  2 years (\$35)  Low income (\$10)

Contribution \$

Subscribe Today!



www.vtpride.org

A horse of a different color.