

Becoming *Out in the Mountains*: an overview of the debut issue

Governor Kunin Hears Lesbian/Gay Concerns

The article discusses an "historic first," when five Burlington area lesbians and gay men met with Governor Kunin and her chief of staff to discuss lesbian and gay rights. That meeting provided the very early stages of what is now known as the equal rights amendment. The meeting explored the use of the Attorney General's office to documents cases of discrimination toward gay and lesbians to gather further information on it's nature and extent.

Social Worker Lobby Politicians

The article outlines a series of meetings between The National Association of Social Workers Lesbian and Gay Issues Committee (NASW-LGIC). The discussed meetings between Governor Kunin, the Attorney General's office, and Senator Pat Leahy. The outcome was the introduction of federal civil rights legislation for gays and lesbians.

Breaking the Taboo Against Women Loving Women

Longtime lesbian feminist activist Peggy Luhrs points out in this article the historical link between the dissolution of bonds between women and patriarchal oppression. Since lesbians actively refuse to let these bonds be broken, they occupy a central space in the struggle for women's rights. Luhrs illustrates how homophobia has been used by conservative forces since at least the turn of the century to "divide and conquer" women, enforcing self-hatred and distracting women from issues such as economic inequality. In a particularly telling example, due to its fate in a nationwide vote, she highlights the struggle to pass the ERA as one place where separating women based on homophobia has been particularly successful.

Civil Rights Protections Lacking

This article lays out the definition of civil rights, and how, although strides had been made in many arenas regarding civil rights (race, creed, color, national origin), lesbians and gay men had yet to benefit from civil rights protection in any state. This seems to mark the beginning of the eventually successful bid for gay and lesbian civil rights on the congressional level.

Note: gay marriage is mentioned here as a civil right not accorded to lesbians and gay men. "Certainly lesbians and gay men are not entitled to marry."

The Times of Dan White

Dan White, the convicted killer of San Francisco's mayor George Moscone and city council member and gay activist Harvey Milk, committed suicide in November 1985. In this touching and still-relevant article, Euan Bear deconstructs her reaction to White's suicide, ranging from "a kind of angry relief" to "grief that a society so discriminates against [her] that [she] feel[s] relieved at someone's death." She points out the anger and fear that come in reaction to a series of shockingly lax sentences for murderers of gay men and lesbians, and the necessity for us to take pride in our identities, to "show that we live our lives strongly in spite of harassment and threats, to show that we are not ashamed of who we are."



Statewide meetings slated

An informal statewide lesbian and gay working group has scheduled open meetings of lesbians and gay men for Sunday, February 16th.

Women will caucus at 1 pm in South Royalton, and men will caucus at 1 pm at Noble Hall, Vermont College in Montpelier.

The meetings spring from a December 15th statewide gathering of nearly 60 lesbians and gay men held in White River Junction. At that meeting, it was agreed to meet again to discuss possible directions for statewide lesbian and gay activities and organization.

Topics likely to be covered at the February meetings include the choice of male and female liaisons to the

Governor's office, the challenges of lesbians and gay men working together, and the level of interest in developing a statewide lesbian and gay men's network or organization.

On Sunday, March 2nd, there will be a statewide meeting of both lesbians and gay men to discuss the results of the February 16th meetings and further explore future directions. That meeting will be held at the South Royalton House at Vermont Law School at 1 pm, and is being hosted by the Vermont Law School Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

For further information on the meetings or organizing efforts contact Louise at 763-7112, Susan at 234-9589, or Terje at 658-0883.

Stay in touch with the Vermont community between issues of *OITM*.

We've set up three new e-mail listservs to keep you up to date with everything from the local gossip to national issues.

VTPrideNet: an e-mail discussion list. LGBT folks from across Vermont — and the people who love them — can now exchange messages

If you'd rather get your chatter in one neat package instead of individual messages, check out **VTPrideNet-digest**. Instead of getting each e-mail separately, you'll get one long message that contains all the day's postings.

For those who aren't up for chatter but want to keep up with major newsevent notices and paper deadlines (of course), there's **VTPrideNet-announce**. There's no discussion on this list — just announcements as events warrant.

To subscribe to any of the lists, send e-mail to

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In the body of your e-mail, you should include one of the following lines to specify the list you want to join:

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