



letters

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

Out in the Mountains welcomes your letters. Although we will withhold names from printing upon request, the letter must be accompanied by a verifiable name and address in order to be considered for publication. We try to print every letter we receive, but reserve the right to edit for space and clarity. Letters are also subject to the editorial policy stated in the masthead.

Time to Pay the (Pride) Piper

Editor:

For the second year in a row, the committee that organized the Vermont GLBT Pride Day failed to collect enough money from our community to pay for the expenses of the day. And while some of the expenses could be debated as to whether they should have been incurred in the first place, the fact remains that the vast majority of those who attended and/or benefitted from the day didn't do a darn thing to support it.

Many of you may think you donated to Pride by purchasing various items or attending "pride" events, but that's not the case. While the "Pride Guide," produced by the Rainbow Business Association, was a useful vehicle for promoting the day, no money generated by advertising sales was given to the Pride Committee. The "GLBT Pride Concert" by the Samadhi Singers was a benefit for Outright Vermont. No money was given to the Pride Committee. Likewise with the "Kick-Off Pride Week" show with Noel and Yolanda. And likewise with the "Interfaith Pride Worship Service" and "Pride Ball at City Hall."

However, Vermont Gay Social Alternatives donated 20 percent of their profits from the "Pride Weekend Cruise" and 135 Pearl donated 25 percent of their sales at the Waterfront on Pride Day. I hope I am omitting other examples.

Should the Pride Committee not allow anyone to use the word "Pride" without getting a cut? That would be impossible. Should groups and businesses generating money on Pride Day (especially at Pride Committee related events) through coin drops, raffles, selling items, etc.

be expected to donate a certain percentage to the Committee? Should groups be charged a fee for marching in the parade, carrying banners or using vehicles as is done in other cities and states? Should we count on corporate sponsors to pay for our event? And if so, would we feel comfortable with major promotion of brewing companies, or businesses that despite giving money to a GLBT organization may not give support in their corporate operations?

Perhaps the move to Waterfront Park was too big of a jump for a small group of volunteers with little ability to raise the money necessary for such a venue. Maybe it's time to go back to Battery Park with no big tent, no extra bathrooms, no expense for a stage, no dance, etc.

Or maybe those who enjoyed the day and benefitted spiritually or financially at this year's Pride Day will realize that it wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of the Pride Vermont Committee and will either send a check (a lot of \$5 or \$10 checks would add up) or volunteer for next year.

Sincerely,
Bob Bolyard
former Pride Vermont
Committee member

Paging the Pride Committee

Editor:

I am rather upset with VT Pride, Pride VT, or VT GLBT Pride (whatever name they are going by). First of all, the board made it very clear that the name of the group was to be Pride VT, since VT Pride was already taken by another group. Yet, no matter what talk show or announcement they do, the name is always dif-

ferent. Even if the host of a talk show says VT GLBT Pride, no one seems to correct them that that is not the name of the group.

Also, on the May program of Rainbow Connection, a member of the pride committee was on talking about the event and put up an email address that read: vtpride@hotmail.com. When I tried to email them at this address, my email came back stating there was no such address. Just a month prior to this, the pride webmaster was asked by a board member to change the address to reflect the "new" email address of pridevt@aol.com.

My question is: How is ANYONE supposed to contact pride if none of the email addresses work or there are so many of them?

It has also come to my attention that pride spent approximately \$2000 on Michelle Weeks. I quote the host of Rainbow Connection: "Michelle Weeks is...?" It's amazing that pride would pay \$2000 for four songs (two at the waterfront and two at 135). For the same amount of money they could have gotten the nationally known a capella group Men Out Loud for a two-hour concert OR an hour with comedian Lorne Newman and two hours with Yolanda and the Plastic Family, plus one other performer. It seems to me that the pride committee keeps crying poor yet spends their DONATED money foolishly.

Although I know first hand how hard it is to produce an event of this size, I think the pride committee should strongly re-evaluate their mission statement and use the money they make wisely, especially since they are planning on becoming incorporated with the State of Vermont and registering for their tax-exempt status with the IRS.

Dean Pratt
Burlington



Extraordinary
FLOWERS

WE Welcome
YOUR BUSINESS



802-863-2300

Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday
350 Dorset Street • South Burlington, Vermont 05403
(Turn left on San Remo Drive)

The Inn at
Bowman
BED & BREAKFAST



- The grandeur of a southern style plantation.
- A traveler's dream for outdoor activities.
- Completely renovated by graciously combining twentieth century comfort with luxury, charm and a friendly ambience.

Randolph, New Hampshire
Tel. (603) 466-5006
www.innatbowman.com

Fax (603) 752-6172
Msg. 1-888-919-8500
Rich & Jerry Inkeepers

INSPIRATIONS

hand-blown glass • aromatherapy candles
scenic Vermont photographs

Taft Corners Shopping Center, No. 37
Williston • 872-8891

subscribe

Subscribe to *Out in the Mountains* and not only will you get discreet monthly delivery to your mailbox, but you also help underwrite the costs of publishing and distributing the newspaper.

The Samara Foundation of Vermont will match each new subscription dollar for dollar up to a \$4000 limit. Please help us meet their generous challenge.

name _____

address _____

town _____ state _____ zip _____

email _____ phone _____

1 year \$20 2 years \$35 low income \$10

Contribution \$ _____ (thanks!)

Make checks payable to Mountain Pride Media

VERMONT'S FORUM FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER ISSUES
OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS
PO Box 1078 • Richmond, VT 05477-1078

CHOOSE AN
OITM ADVERTISER ON
YOUR NEXT OUTING!