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VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER for LESBIANS and GAY MEN

Vol. 2, No. 6

September, 1987



Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration

Photo by Bob Mundstock.

Approximately 400 Vermonters took part in Vermont's fifth annual lesbian/gay pride celebration on June 14 in Burlington. Marching behind a banner which bore the slogan "Now More Than Ever", members of Vermont's lesbian/gay community and their supporters made, what has become, our annual trek through downtown Burlington in support of civil rights legislation and against the homophobia witnessed this past year in Vermont.

The rally, which featured local speakers from across the state, focused primarily on the homophobia churned up during last year's ERA campaign and the currently ongoing efforts in Vermont to pass a sexual orientation anti-discrimination bill. Many of those who spoke talked of their own personal experiences, both in terms of discrimination and empowerment, during these two campaigns.

Another focus during the rally had to do with the local response to the AIDS

epidemic. Terje Anderson, executive director of Vermont CARES, expressed concern that "all the media seems to be concerned about is the spread of AIDs among heterosexuals. We can't afford to make the distinction. A gay life is worth as much as a straight life."

Also, Mimi DeSouza of UVM's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Association (GLBA), spoke of that organization's successful efforts to have "sexual orientation" become a protected class within the university's non-discrimination statutes.

The rally and parade also featured the music of KWANZAA, a local, multi-cultural percussion group. This group led the parade through downtown Burlington and gave the event a very festive air.

**For More L/G Pride,
See Page 6.**

March on Washington

Local organizing efforts for Vermont's participation in the National March on Washington (M.O.W.) has begun with two meetings in July. Informal committees were set up in the areas of fundraising, media and transportation/lodging.

Fundraising efforts will begin with a garage/bake sale at 17 Foster Street in Burlington (see calendar) on Aug. 29. Also planned is a fundraiser at Pearl's, Pearl Street in Burlington, on Thursday, September 17 from 8 PM to closing. Funds will be used for transportation and lodging expenses as well as supporting regional M.O.W. efforts.

The media committee is planning public service announcements for radio and general press releases in an effort to get the word out locally to both lesbian/gay community members as well as the public at large.

Plans are being worked on for coordinating group as well as individual transportation. For more information call Terje at Vermont C.A.R.E.S. 863-2437.

The committees will re-group on Thursday, September 10 at the Peace and Justice Center at 186 College Street, Burlington, at 7:30 PM. Come and join the effort!

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The 1987 organizing committee for Vermont's Fifth Annual Lesbian Gay Pride Celebration would like to thank all who helped bring about a very successful Pride Weekend. What a great turnout!!