

Gay Pride Day

There will be a Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration this year, thanks to the willingness and enthusiasm of several brave souls in Montpelier to organize the event.

At the first planning meeting in Montpelier, eight people from Rutland, Burlington, and Montpelier, to begin the process of setting goals and possibilities. A consensus was reached to hold the celebration in Montpelier - a first! - on Saturday, June 25, 1988, the date nearest the anniversary of the Stonewall Riot. A rally on the lawn of the State House will precede the march down State and Main Streets and back to the State House for addresses, music, and an open-mike period. The release of white balloons carrying names of P.W.A.'s who have died will take place, during a moment of silence. Later that day, tentative plans call for a dance party to top off the high-jinks and allow for a release of heightened emotions.

Planning meetings will continue bi-weekly, the next one to be held in Rutland on April 10. For more details, please call 229-9461. Everyone is welcome to attend and all help is needed.

Gay and Lesbian Vets to Organize

The enthusiasm of October's March on Washington still lives in the newly formed Gay Veterans of Vermont. They have contacted the National Gay Veterans Association and the New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans group to organize a chapter of one or both groups in the Green Mountain State. Gene Barfield, spokesperson, points out that conversations he's had with other gay and lesbian vets around the state suggest that the group could easily represent over 150 years of service to the nation in the Armed Forces.

According to Barfield, "Between the man I love and myself we have eighteen years of service in the Navy, we both have earned medals, and we're tired of all the anti-country crap we've heard from the right-wingers who oppose the civil rights bill." Barfield emphasizes that there are many ways to serve one's country and all people deserve the full protection of their civil rights as Americans. He adds, "Since the Reaganites and the other right-wingers are so enchanted with the respectable image of Americans who serve in uniform, gay and lesbian veterans should be in the forefront demonstrating the need for a good

civil rights bill for gays and lesbians in Vermont."

Barfield has been talking up the idea of a lesbian/gay veterans group since his discharge from the Navy in 1986. Nationally, the Veterans Administration has recognized several gay/lesbian veteran groups, and the American Legion recently allowed lesbian and gay vet groups to march in the New York City Veterans Day Parade. Organizers hope that the lesbian and gay community's pride in its tolerance and diversity will temper the antagonism between peace activists and veterans groups.

Barfield emphasized a number of points for the community. "We want to include as many veterans as possible; we'll go out of our way to respect issues of confidentiality, and we don't care how long you served or why you were discharged. Whatever the service, whatever your feelings about your time in uniform, the fact that you were there stands for something. The group's organizers can be contacted in care of Gene Barfield, Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men, P.O. Box 1125, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

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- Families (Traditional and non-traditional)
- Couples
- Individuals
- Children

Black & White or Color.

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AS THE PEARL TURNS
5th Year Anniversary Gala

Saturday April 30th
8:30pm-Closing

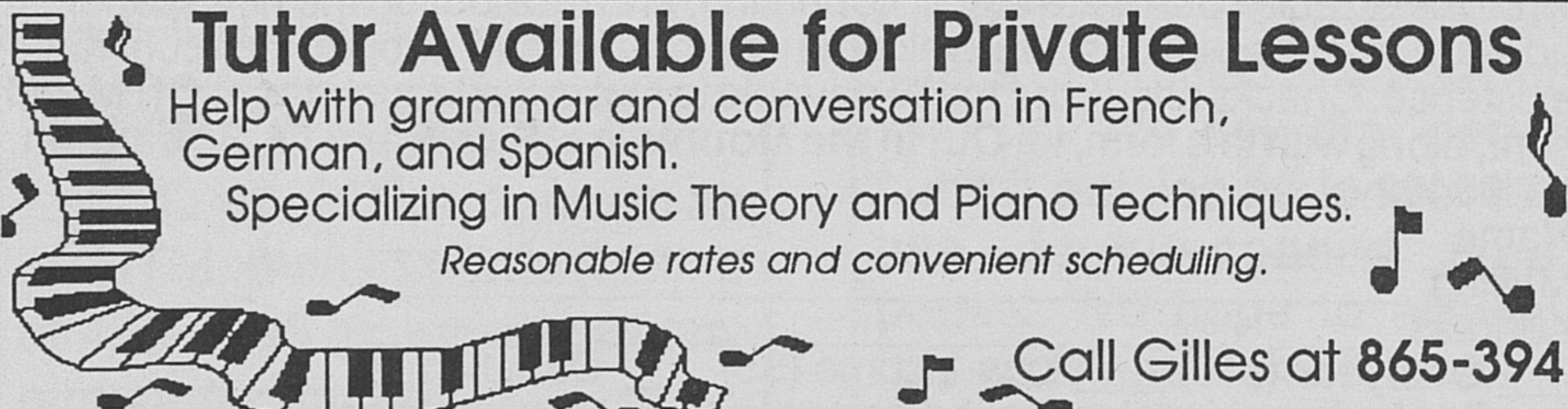
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Complimentary Cocktail
Champagne toast at Midnight

D.J.: Stephen C.
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 Come in and Tie One On!!!

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