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Out in the Mountains

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Pride Day '91 Preview

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It's finally time to come out of hibernation and take to the streets once again as Vermont's 9th Annual Pride Day takes place on Saturday, June 22, in Burlington. The theme for this year's event is "The Dawning of a New Age."

Pride '91 will get underway with a rally at noon near the steps on the Church Street side of City Hall. A march through the streets of Burlington will begin promptly at 12:30 and should last about half an hour, after which the rally will continue on the City Hall steps.

Live entertainment will be provided inside at the Contois Auditorium from 3-5:00. Performers will include Vermont's own Lisa McCormick as well as New Hampshire's Pearly Gates. Comedienne Liz Sampson will serve as emcee of the show, which will also feature several surprise guests.

After dinner out on the town, celebrants are invited to the downstairs area of Memorial Auditorium, where Virginia and the Wolves will provide rollicking music for a dance from 7-11:00. Admission will be \$6 - \$15 on a sliding scale.

In the event of rain, the afternoon events (excluding the march) will be held indoors at Contois Auditorium. The availability of this rain-date location was one of the major reasons for moving Pride Day from Montpelier back to Burlington, where it began nine years ago.

According to Pride Committee Chairperson Ronnie Bancroft, the Burlington location also improved the chances of having live entertainment in the afternoon. Many performers were reluctant to risk the weather outdoors at the State House in Montpelier, where, as last year's Pride Day participants can attest, Mother Nature challenged the spirit of those in attendance. (The marchers held out against the downpours, it should be noted, showing that when it comes to celebrating our communities, we're one determined and willful lot.)

Bancroft noted that while having the event in Montpelier did increase its political significance and was somewhat more accessible to other areas in the state, it didn't make practical sense in the long run, particularly in terms of finding a rain location.

Relocating Pride Day was no small task, and Bancroft noted that there were some major obstacles to overcome, including securing the parade permit needed for the march. At press time, final details were still being brought together even as the major structuring for the day had been accomplished.

In order to facilitate planning for Pride Day, the group Vermont Pride was organized last year with the sole function of doing the groundwork for Pride Day activities. Bancroft noted that the existence of Vermont Pride allowed for "some real bonding with the other Pride committees in the area." New Hampshire Pride in particu-

lar has been very helpful, with the two groups sharing resources to strengthen them in their common mission.

Other groups have also joined in the spirit of Pride Day. OUTRIGHT VERMONT has planned a "Camp in Queen City" party on Pride Day eve (Friday night, June 21). The dance will take place at Contois Auditorium from 7-11:00 p.m. and is co-sponsored by the Multicultural Council of Vermont. Prizes will be awarded for the "campiest queers" to appear.

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. (Committee for Aids Resources, Education, and Services) will be holding an open house on Pride Day. You can visit them at their offices downstairs at 30 Elmwood Avenue.

Tables will be available at City Hall for groups wishing to distribute or sell their wares. Interested parties should contact the Pride Committee at 479-1250 to reserve space. Further information can also be obtained at that number.

