

The Prom I Always Wanted

Steve Weiss

June 3, 1983. I'm eighteen years old, wearing a rented white tuxedo and scuffed white vinyl rented shoes. Pinned to my lapel: a red rose boutonniere. Beside me, a full arm's length away, in the back seat of a rented white limo my Mom sprang for, a young woman I barely know, plain, quiet, her hands folded in her lap. I stare out the side window thinking, "What am I doing here?"

The car pulls into the crescent driveway of the Parkview Hilton. The chauffeur opens the door for us to get out. Sliding across the velvet seat, Carol (my prom date) catches a white heel in the hem of her borrowed navy blue polyester gown. Awkwardly she stumbles onto the red carpeted sidewalk and I step on her foot as I obliviously slide out behind her. Ouch! Excuse me. I walk inside, my hands sunk deep in my pockets.

We find the banquet room the senior prom committee rented and present the prom tickets Carol paid for at the door. (Sure she paid for them. She asked me to the prom.) The band, Hartford, plays the prom's theme song, "We've got tonight, who needs tomorrow, let's make it last, let's find a way. Turn off the lights, come take my hand now, we've got tonight babe, why don't you stay?" At first glance a carpe diem suggestion to enjoy the prom, but in actuality a heterosexual plaint for a little hetero sex. While our peers rotate in place on the dance floor, bodies and braces locked passionately as one, Carol and I avoid making eye contact with each other sitting at the table in the far back left corner.

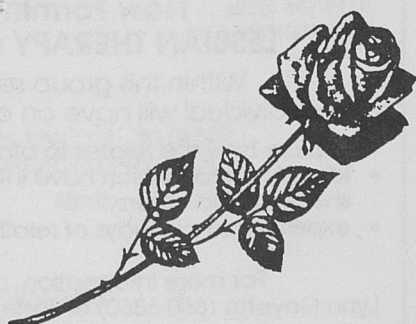
May 16, 1992. I'm 27 years old, wearing the black tails I bought at a thrift shop, fishnet stockings, black leather hot pants and the pointiest boots in Burlington. I walk up Main Street to the Contois Auditorium at City Hall, trot up the stairs, white gloves and cane in hand, and enter

solo. Its stag for me tonight. Inside I see Carol; she's calling herself Thunder these days, wearing a white tuxedo and a red rose boutonniere. She's holding hands with her girlfriend Moonwater who presents their tickets to the man with the beehive hairdo at the entrance to the OUTRIGHT Prom, The Way You Always Wanted It to Be!

Yes, it's true, now is your chance to reclaim that time in your life when you did it their way. A chance to cut loose, get funky and have a great time in a healthy way. The OUTRIGHT Prom, The Way You Always Wanted it to Be! is (as is the case with all OUTRIGHT events) a chem-free bash for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people of all ages and appearances. There will be scrumptious refreshments, ecstatic dancing, prizes for outstanding Kings and Queens, and even a photographer to provide you with that special keepsake to paste in your scrapbook. Dress to express yourself in creative formal attire. Dare to be different, break a few rules. Experience the dry-mouthed, stomach-clenched excitement of asking out a date, or come alone like the rebel, the maverick you've always wanted to be.

For even more fun, volunteer to help OUTRIGHT's fundraising committee to put the party together. For ticket information or to volunteer, call OUTRIGHT at 865-9677.

And, by the way, if you don't want to go to the prom because you just don't dance, that's no excuse. OUTRIGHT is offering the "Would You Like to Dance" dance lessons, every other Saturday starting March 14 from 6:30-8 p.m., also at the Contois. After your lessons in jitterbug, contra dancing, ballroom dancing and more, you can be sure you'll have the moves to boogie on down at the prom. Tickets are available through OUTRIGHT or at the Peace and Justice Center's Peace on Earth Store. ▼



Statement of Purpose

The purpose of *Out in the Mountains* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and our supporters in Vermont. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation. We also see *OITM* as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities.

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent those of the staff. This paper cannot and will not endorse any candidates and actions of public officials on issues of importance to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

We will not publish any material which is overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, or homophobic.

All materials submitted must be signed so we can contact the author should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles may appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit materials for publication and to share your comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us. This paper is here for you. The deadline for submitting material for each issue is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

Materials should be sent to:
Out in the Mountains
PO Box 177
Burlington, VT 05402

How to Advertise

If you would like to run an ad in *OITM*, please contact us for rates, sizes, and information. Ad copy must be received by the 1st of the month to be included in the next month's issue. Copy can be mailed to: *OITM*, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402, or call Ellen at (802) 860-1922.