

# Stepping Outright Into the Stars

Steve Weiss

On May 16, Burlington stepped Outright into the stars. And what a heavenly night it was! A glamorous crowd of people showed up to reclaim their adolescent prom experiences, decked out in ways you never saw in your high school gyms. Beneath a ceiling of glittering blue stars (which took forever to cut out - thank you star cutters) and surrounded by pots of lilacs, greens and flowers (thanks to Roots), people got down on the dance floor to the tunes of D.J./M.C. Craig Mitchell. In the lobby promgoers munched cheese and crackers, brownies and cake, and sipped a delicious punch. That Saturday night, the stars shone brightly at the Contois.

After a day of preparation, transforming City Hall into a celestial wonderland of queerdom, with the help of Fresco Studio and their talented crew, and lighting by Kim and Tracy, the scene was set for the prom. The celestial goodies were donated by Mirabelle's, Delightful Experience Catering and Peter and Dian of Outright's Fundraising Committee. There was a photo booth and even a documentary being filmed downstairs, a sort of "Burlington if Burning." There were sashes, tiaras, and roses for the evening's kings and queens in the categories of Greatest Fashion Risk, Most Retro, and Most Queenly/Kingly, honoring those who really got into the spirit of the prom. Outfits ranged from the terrific - a gorgeous green gown and matching tulle headpiece, to the tantalizing - a glamorous white and black halter and white feather boa, to the trashy - fishnet thigh highs, a garter belt, leopard mini, black sheer skirt, and tuxedo top.

Special thanks go to Pat Fontaine who pulled the bash together, with ample help from her friends, and who looked fabulous in her slashed gown and jacket. As a member of the team who put the party together, it's hard to recall a time when we weren't working on this event. Planning began way back at the end of last summer, and with the dance lessons that led to the prom, the whole experience was as draining as it was rewarding. An estimated \$3,000 was raised to help keep Outright serving Vermont's gay, lesbian and bisexual youth. More thanks to everyone who attended both the lessons and the prom. Toward the end of the evening I heard whispirings of making the prom an annual event.

The documentary being filmed downstairs was also very exciting. Sally Ross Nolan and her cameraman Phil began filming hours before they set up their little studio in City Hall. They interviewed a lesbian couple as they prepared to go out to dinner, and asked a gay man about his earlier prom experiences as he adjusted his fishnets and fastened his cufflinks. During the festivities several promgoers visited Sally and Phil and recounted their own prom experiences, answering questions about homophobia and growing up gay. Rumor has it there was some great footage filmed and the video will be wonderful. The blue stars hanging from the ceiling upstairs were obviously not the only ones in the building.

All in all, the prom was a raging success. Same-sex couples danced and kissed and had a great time under the stars. Even Melissa Etheridge, who was performing at Memorial Auditorium that night, couldn't entice the crowd away. Thanks again to everyone who made the event happen. Stay tuned for Outright's next fundraising extravaganza, which will be announced as soon as we figure out what it will be. And by the way, if all this planning and hard work and excitement sound interesting to you, please join us. To volunteer, call Outright's office at 865-9677. ▼

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SUSAN MCKENZIE MS  
ELLEN KIRSCHNER CSW  
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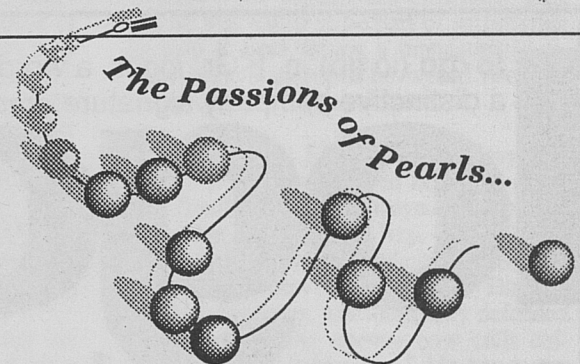
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the joining of their practices  
and the opening of

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Friday, July 10 & August 7	Women's Dance	\$5.00	5-9 p.m.
Sunday, July 12	PJ and Cousins -Live	\$3:00	8 pm
Wed. July 15 & August 19	Pasta Night-All you can eat	\$5.95	6-9 p.m.
Thur. July 16 & August 20	Juice Bar	\$3.00 cover	9 p.m.
(All other Thursdays of the month, Free D.J.)			
Sat. July 18 & August 15	Ladies Lounge Dance	\$1.00	7-10 p.m.
Sat. July 25 & August 22	Dances with Men-Buffer	\$3.00	7-10 p.m.

Friday and Saturday Night Door Cover Policy  
Before 9:00 pm. Free • 9:00 - 10:00 pm \$1.00 After 10:00 pm \$3.00

**Pearls**

135 Pearl Street • Burlington, Vermont