

▼ *Out In the Mountains Pride Coverage Continues* ▼  
*inside on pages 8 - 9!*

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*Out in the Mountains*

VERMONT'S FORUM FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER ISSUES

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*Oh when the dykes, go marching in!: Dyke March '97*



Photo by StaciAnne Visco

by Lyn Staack

Downtown Burlington's Church Street was overrun by dykes on June 21 as Vermont's first Dyke March kicked off this year's Pride Day.

Following a fiery "Dyke March" banner made by The Art Gurlz (Alison Bechdel, Bekah Perks, Patti McNamy and Amy Radcliffe), 100 lesbian-, bi- and trans-dykes marched — or rode in the back of the "Trans" pickup truck — from City Hall up Church Street, the main artery of the city. Chanting, clapping and waving to allies on the sidewalk, the high energy group turned down Cherry Street and wound their way to Battery Park. Once there, the dyke marchers fanned out, joining other

GLBT celebrants in listening to speakers, wandering the booths and visiting with friends.

Organizers considered the Dyke March a success. "This year because it was the first Dyke March in Vermont we had set a goal of 100 dykes—which we met. Next year our goal will be much higher," said organizer Jess Bell. Other organizers for this year's march included Peggy Luhrs, Rachel Lurie, Chris Staats, and Oak Lagalbo.

Vermont's Dyke March, Jess said, was planned in the tradition of the Dyke Marches which have accompanied Pride Day Events in cities across the country since the first one the night before the GLBT March on Washington in 1993 when 20,000 lesbians

Continued, Page 3

OUTRIGHT VERMONT FINDS  
 NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Chris Tebbetts

Ask Tami Eldredge what the needs of GLBTQ youth are today, and she'll rattle off a quick, concise list. It was that kind of ready answer that impressed Outright Vermont into hiring her as the agency's new Executive Director. That, and an eclectic professional background combined to make her the organization's first choice to replace the outgoing Karin Eade. Eldredge, 40, relocated herself and her three cats from South Carolina to begin work in Burlington last March. She hopes to bring new energy and ideas to what she sees as an already impressive agency. "The work Karin has done to build capacity and provide services was really impressive, so I had a place to start," she says.

Eldredge also found that her new position was a perfect opportunity to combine her background and skills. With an undergraduate degree in theater and dance, she co-founded The Salon, an annual GLB arts celebration in Dayton, Ohio, where she also came out as a lesbian in 1987. Her additional work there with women's groups eventually led to a Masters of Public Health in Health

Promotion and Education, along with a graduate certificate in Women's Studies from the University of South Carolina in Columbia in 1995. Along the way, she has worked in office administration, technical writing and youth health advocacy.

Asked what her priorities for Outright will be, Eldredge concentrates on developing the group's existing structure. She stresses a continued commitment to youth involvement as key to the organization's future success. She also hopes build the relationship between the two arms of the agency, Outreach/Education and Direct Services, currently coordinated by herself and Tage Lilja, respectively. They will both be adding opportunities for youth to take part in decision making and in running the programs themselves. "When you're an agency this small, there's a lot you want to do," says Eldredge of their two-person staff. Expanding youth involvement will help them achieve their mission and get more done at the same time. Plans include youth staffing for Outright's information line (1-800-GLB-CHAT) and

CONTINUED, page 7

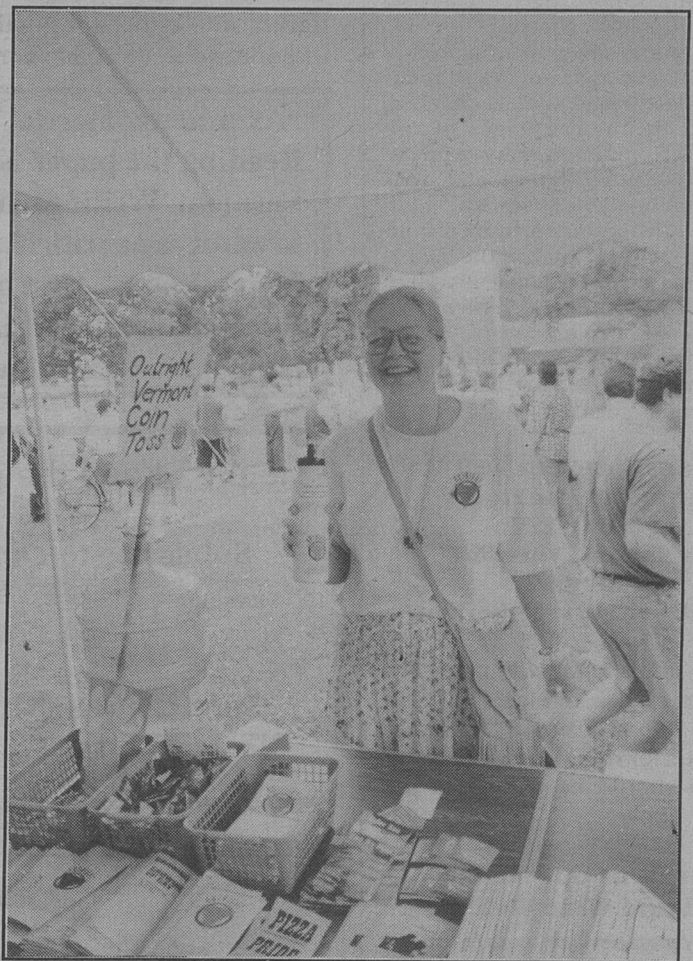


Photo by StaciAnne Visco

Outright Vermont's new executive director, Tami Eldredge at this year's pride festivities. *Out in the Mountains 1997 Pride coverage continues inside on pages 8-9 (the centerfold).*

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