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Out in the Mountains

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

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Pride 1997 Coverage continues!

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Tables were set up for vendors and area organizers under the tents. The Peace and Justice Center was there, selling Xena posters among other things, alongside Hopes World, VT Bisexual Network, Phoenix Rising, Men's Health Project, Outright Vermont, Rainbow Business Association, *Out In The Mountains*, Vermont N.O.W. and Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Local businesses also got into the spirit of Pride. There was a Pride display in the window of Chassman and Bem. Leunig's staff wore pride flag stickers. Ben and Jerry's arranged to make donations from milkshake sales to Vermont Cares and had a donation table in their Church

Street store. Magic Hat donated beer to the Queen City Pride Dance—all proceeds from beer sales were donated to Vermont Cares, as well.

At the Pride Dance, held in Memorial Annex, Rebecca Simone teamed with the Orange Factory for an impressive R&B/funk tour de force. Chin Ho! also played, and I felt like I was in high school again, watching my best friend's brother's band play in the teen center. Who thought we'd have either a well-produced, professional caliber live R&B outfit or a queer-punk band poised to break nationally here in our community in Burlington, Vermont?

After Chin Ho! ended their set with a rendition of the Julie

Brown classic of "Johnny Are You Queer," I headed over to the Pearl with friends. The tent was dead, but a lot of folks were milling around outside, nonetheless. Inside, the house was packed.

Many of the local celebrities were on hand: the beautiful and talented Rebecca Simone, Bob Bolyard in high style pride boots, and DJ Little Martin and Craig Mitchell both in the DJ booth. Heck, even straight people who work in my office were at Pearls!

A number of folks attended both the Pride Dance at Memorial Annex and the Pride Party at 135 Pearl. To see so many people intentionally supporting both events was nice, especially since the Memorial

Annex event was in support of CARES and The Pride Committee.

For some, Pride lasted well into the morning on Sunday. I was lucky enough to get invited to my first after-hours party of the year where I cavorted with new friends and some lovely girls who work at Church Street Tavern.

For me, Pride was equal parts politics and fun, Pride gave me a sense of community that I haven't experienced since moving here almost a year ago. I'm sure there were a heck of a lot more people integrally involved in Pride than are mentioned here. I'm sorry for any omissions, and would like to personally thank everyone involved in making GLBT Pride 1997 a rewarding experience for so many this year.

Don't forget your rubbers.

You don't get it from toilet seats. You don't get it from coffee cups. You don't get it from desk tops in a school room. It doesn't fly through the air or swim around in hot tubs. You don't catch it from shaking hands, kissing, sneezing, wrestling or dancing.

According to the Surgeon General, your best protection against AIDS, barring abstinence, is use of a condom. For the facts about AIDS, call the Vermont AIDS Hotline.

VERMONT AIDS HOTLINE: 1-800-882-AIDS

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