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A PICTURE PERFECT PRIDE

continued from front page

vators covered issues such as same-sex marriages, electing Vermont's first openly gay senator, and battling "right-winged crackpot" detractors.

Crowds spent the day wandering through the main tent where they could spend their money on everything from raffles and subscriptions to Pride jewelry and bumper stickers.

A common topic of conversation throughout the day was how far the community has come in four years. Many people talked about the first parade and rally where queers showed up in disguise to protect themselves. This year there wasn't a mask in sight.

Although no official head count was made, it is widely agreed that the crowd was significantly larger than and pre-

cious year.

Pride Day enabled the GLBT community to express concerns, step out of the closet, and simply to have fun. Bill

Manka of Middlebury College said it best, everyone "maintains their identities while striving for a common goal." The GLBT community and its Allies represent a wide array of people but everyone is confronting the same enemy: oppression. "Life is diverse in the wild," says Rod Cain, one of the

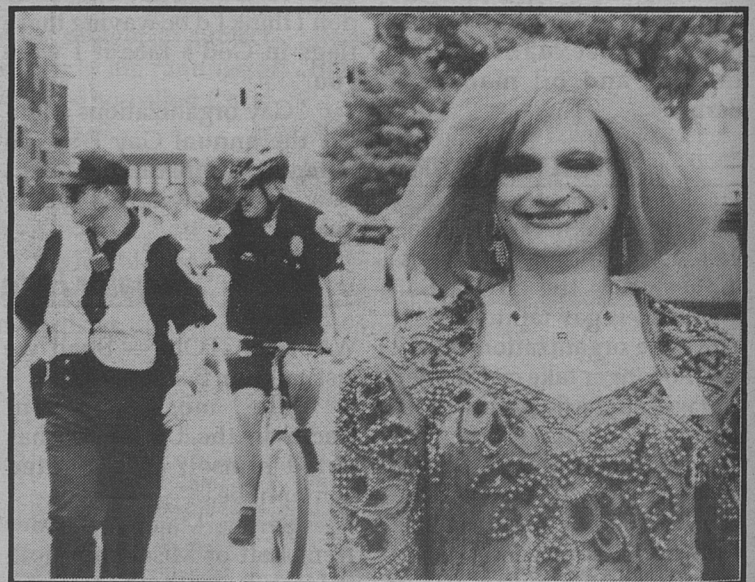
proud drag queens of the parade. "[This] is about being proud of who you are; I wish more people would do this everyday. It's time to have fun!"



Upper right: Peggy Luhrs joined the long list of speakers at the pre-march rally.

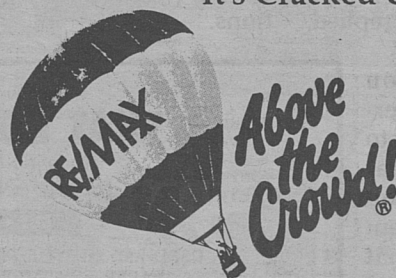
Middle right: Youth from all over Vermont marched with Outright VT, an organization that serves the needs of GLBTQ Youth

At right: Cherie Tartt joins the police escort for the parade

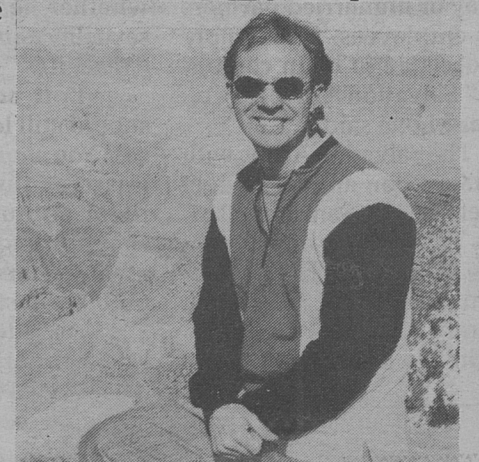


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