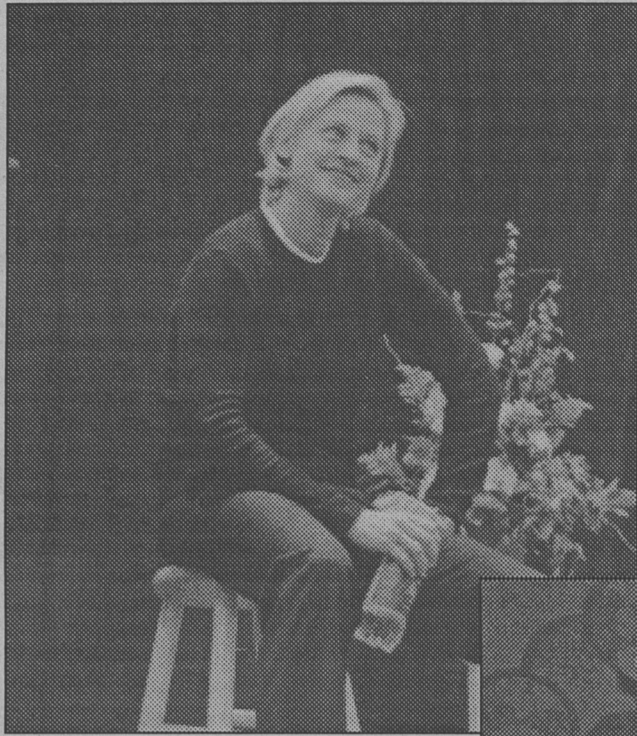


news

Coming Out Week entertainers energize local community



below: DJ Moonflower (The Scarecrow) and DJ Chia (Dorothy) entertained "Emerald City Ball" party-goers with more than just great house music. The Coming Out Week event, sponsored by a coalition of community groups, raised almost \$500 for Pride Vermont 2000.

photos: Max Stroud



above: Ellen DeGeneres spoke to a crowd of hundreds at the University of Vermont's Patrick Gymnasium on October 10. She and her partner Anne Heche announced their intentions to come back to Vermont to get married, if Supreme Court returns a favorable decision. The national media was paying attention and spread the word quickly.

It's Official: B'ton A "Queer Paradise"

Thanks to a national magazine, the whole country knows part of our secret: Burlington's a great place to be a lesbian.

The city weighed in at number eight on this year's edition of the annual *Girlfriends* Best Lesbian Places to Live.

Warning readers that they'd want to pack "your U-Haul -- and your long-janes," the lesbian lifestyle magazine applauded the Queen City's "poetry slams, waterfront potlucks, and superior publication, *Out in the Mountains*."

The profile specifically mentions 135 Pearl, Dyketalk, and the Interweave group at the Burlington UU church. However, it missed the mark on Burlington gay and lesbian businesses and organizations with its count of a mere 16. Likewise, it made no mention of the pending same-sex marriage case or the atmosphere in the rest of the state.

The magazine's list is based loosely on a similar *Money* magazine feature. *Girlfriends* has customized the criteria to reflect what its editors feel are the needs and desires of gay women.

In addition to crime rate and number of gay and lesbian friendly businesses, they consider domestic partnership registration, antidiscrimination laws, cost of living, unemployment, and -- as a tie-breaker -- air quality.

Girlfriends Best Lesbian Places to Live 1999

1. Seattle, Washington
2. Portland, Oregon
3. Atlanta, Georgia
4. Columbus, Ohio
5. Portland, Maine
6. Denver, Colorado
7. Washington, DC
8. Burlington, Vermont
9. New Orleans, Louisiana
- 10a. Phoenix, Arizona
- 10b. Providence, Rhode Island

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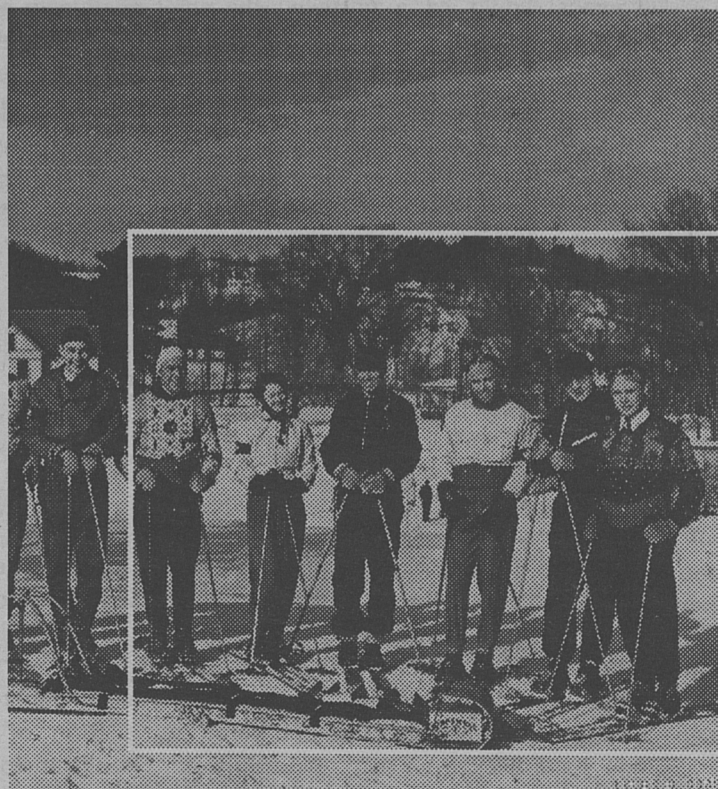
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