ROCKY ANDERSON LEADS PRIDE DAY PARADE
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Deseret News. Salt Lake City, Utah; June 11, 2001
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Mayor Rocky Anderson's presence was a nice exclamation point to the come-one, come-all statement of Utah Pride Day 2001, some celebrants said.
"I like what he stands for," said Kristy Trone, Salt Lake City, one of an estimated 30,000 attending a parade and fair Sunday celebrating Utah's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community at Liberty Park and the Salt Lake City-County Building.
"I think this state is still close-minded in a lot of ways. It's nice to see so many families out here. The last few years the parade has shown a more complete view of the community. It's not just bars and leather," said Trone, attending with her sister-in-law and 15-month-old nephew.

Shane LaFleure, Salt Lake City, also said he thought Anderson's attendance helped generate a more positive outlook, emphasizing the gay community and sexual orientation-related events aren't just about sex.
"It's about fellowship, friendship, love, all sorts of things," LaFleure said.

While Anderson became the first Salt Lake mayor to serve as grand marshal of the parade — and spoke afterward at the City-County Building — he was not the only honored guest.

Salt Lake attorney Laura Gray and activist Brook Heart-Song received the Dr. Kristen Ries Community Service Award, one of the highest awards bestowed on members of the gay community, Utah Pride co-chair Kim Russo said.

The award is named after and presented by Salt Lake physician Kristen Ries, who was the first to see patients with HIV and AIDS at the risk of her professional reputation, Russo said.

Both Gray, who helps gay couples adopt children, and Heart-Song, who is on boards of several local charitable organizations, said it's important to volunteer and work in the community.

Gray said there are two gay liaisons for the Salt Lake Organizing Committee who organize volunteers and find homes where gay athletes and their families can stay during the 2002 Winter Games.

Floats for the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, Bricks private club and Scouting For All won awards for best reflecting this year's Pride theme: embracing diversity.

Utah Pride co-chairman Darin Hobbs said diversity comes in various forms such as gender identification, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.
"The notion of embracing diversity speaks to the recognition that all people must be treated equally and must be treated with respect and must never be oppressed for their differences," Hobbs said.