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## 3rd Annual LGBT Symposium Program

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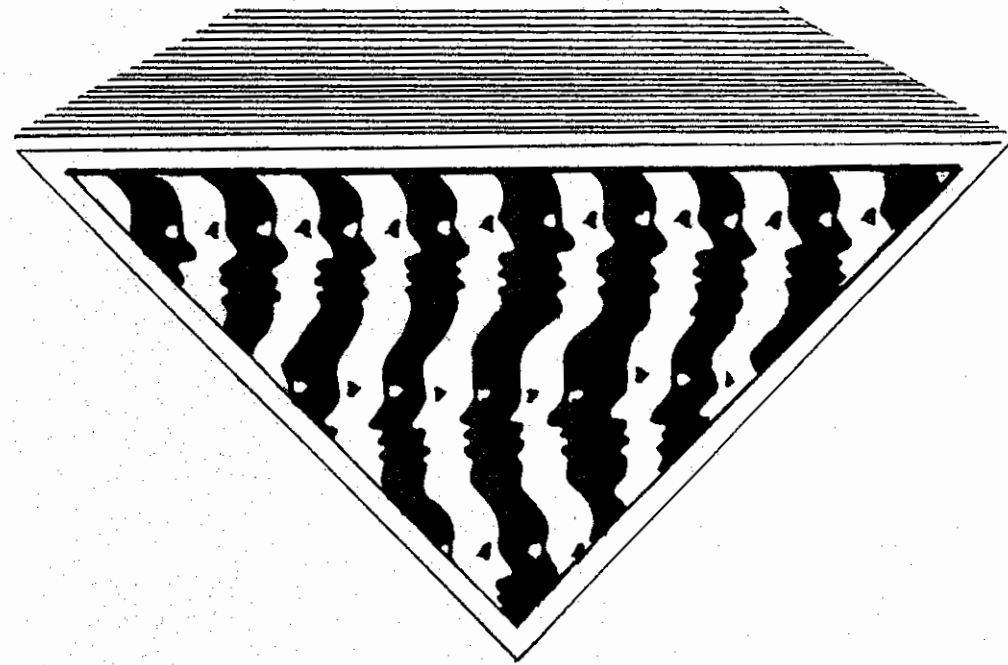
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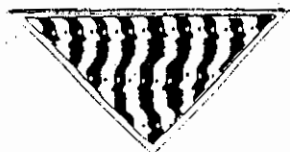
# Perspectives on Progress



The Third Annual Symposium  
on  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues



University of Rhode Island  
April 10-12, 1997



## Welcome

The Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism, founded in 1991, is comprised of students, staff and faculty. We are working together to eliminate oppression, harassment, and discrimination directed toward gay men, lesbians and bisexuals at the University and in our society.

In 1995, Committee Member Mary Cappello proposed an in-house conference featuring interdisciplinary academic and creative work in Sexuality Studies. The primary objective for the symposium was to once and for all establish a forum in which students, faculty and staff could voice concerns and discuss strategies for countering the homophobia they experienced here at URI. The symposium organizers expected enough responses to their call for presentations to fill one day; as it turned out, the response was so overwhelming, the first conference required two full days of sessions. Since 1995 the conference has grown to a three day event, has incorporated the work of community activists and leaders, and has attracted participants from around the world.

Whether you are here as a presenter, observer or organizer we welcome you and hope that you enjoy the richness and diversity of the program. This is an extraordinary opportunity for us to learn from each other, share our ideas and creativity, and to form new friendships. Enjoy!

Holly J. Nichols  
Symposium Chair



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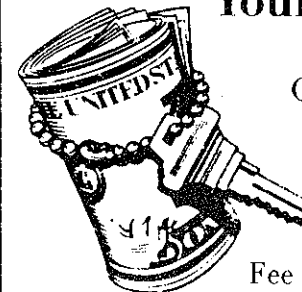


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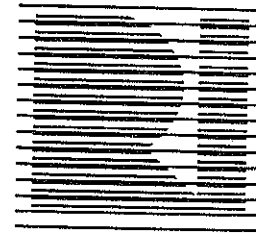


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# Symposium Planning Committee

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Members	-----	Lois A. Cuddy
	-----	Nancy A. Pironne
	-----	Melissa M. Lovering
	-----	Amy N. Black
Finance Manager	-----	Greta Cohen

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people who volunteered their time, energy and ideas to help make this event a success.

- |                                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ▼ The H&H Committee              | ▼ Kathryn Murray      |
| ▼ Nancy Azar                     | ▼ Ashley Nichols      |
| ▼ Bill Bartels                   | ▼ Peace Creations     |
| ▼ John Blakeslee                 | ▼ Rosie Pegueros      |
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| ▼ Lavender Thumbs<br>Garden Club | ▼ Tim Tierne          |
| ▼ Al Lott                        | ▼ Michael Vocino, Jr. |
| ▼ Beth & Russ Milham             | ▼ Jean Walton         |
|                                  | ▼ Andrew Winters      |

Thursday, April 10

9:00 Opening Remarks  
President Robert Carothers, University of Rhode Island

9:30 - 10:45 Campus Climate  
*Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Curricular Integration at a Women's College, or Discussions in (and of) the Dating Parlor* Discussion of the integration of lesbian and gay studies at a small southern U.S. college. Andrea Cumpston

*The Effectiveness of Lesbian & Gay Speaker Panel Presentations as an Intervention to Promote Attitudinal Change in Heterosexual Students* Examination of the effects of lesbian and gay speaker panel presentations. JoLee Webb

*Attitudes Toward Gay Men and Lesbians: Homophobia or Heterosexism* An analysis of the concept of homophobia from a social psychological perspective as well as a discussion of a scale measuring the attitudes toward gay men and lesbians. Albert Lott

11:00 -12:15 Bisexuality  
*Bisexuality in the Netherlands* Exploration of bisexual identity in Dutch culture. Rebecca McCrorie

*The Science of Heterosexuality* A look at recent scientific attempts to discover, or rather invent, homosexual bodies, and to codify their pleasures through the Human Genome Project. Steven Angelides

12:15 -1:30 lunch

1:30 - 2:00 Music & Sexuality  
*Narcissizing the Saxophone: Constructing Our Sexual Repression Through Linguistic and Musical Discourse* Connecting jazz to human sexuality, the pertinence of society's narcissism will be demonstrated. M. Amanda Materne

2:00 - 3:15 Health Care  
*Lesbian Health Care: An Oxymoron?* Exploration of obstacles to complete health for lesbians, including implicit gender bias that exists in medical culture, as well as unique aspects of lesbian sexual health and the efforts that are being made to provide better health care for lesbians. Francesca Mary Maresca

*Creating a Lesbian Family* Discussion of the obstacles faced by lesbian parents including access to alternative insemination, lack of images of lesbians in childbirth and parenting education, literature, and media, and legal considerations defining and protecting "family" relationships. Laurie Friedman

*Herbs, Holism & AIDS* Discussion of herbal therapies used to support the immune system and counteract negative effects of chemical therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS. Michael Ford

3:30 - 4:45 Creative Expressions  
*Fiction Reading* Reading of "queer" texts including discussion of race, sexuality, nationhood, class and language. Thomas Glave

*Poetry Reading* A young artist, social worker and rising star on New York City's poetry scene will read from his powerfully moving and finely crafted work. Peter Covino

7:30 Keynote Speaker (in White Hall Auditorium) - Karen Marshall, Director of the San Diego Lesbian & Gay Men's Community Center  
*How Do We Organize a Diverse Group of Communities to Move Our Movement Forward?* Ms. Marshall will share with us her thoughts and experiences on what steps must be taken in order for the LGBT Community to attain equality in a way that is healthy for all of us, including our need to celebrate and utilize our diversity.

Friday, April 11

9:00 - 9:20 Media

*Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Groups in the Media* A look at the absence of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in the media, the motivation behind the lack of coverage, and alternate routes for visibility. **Andrea Herrmann**

9:30 - 10:50 Politics of S/M

*Limits of Progress: The Endless Loop of the S/M Debates* Discussion focusing on the connections between healing from abuse and sexual exploration. **Juliana Marie Kubala, Janet Jakobsen, Sara Look**

*M-powerment* A radical rethinking of the forms of power involved in s/m from (but not limited to) the perspective of masochism. **Karmen MacKendrick**

11:00 - 11:50 Coming Out

*"Coming Out" and "Staying In": Multiple Dimensions of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Individual Experiences* Results and theories of a comprehensive questionnaire designed to identify and explore the variety of experiences gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons have with regard to "coming out" and "staying in." **Anne Dineen, Colleen Gregory, Dawn Hennekey, Thomas Keegen, Albert Lott, JoLee Webb**

*Disclosure of Sexual Orientation and Relational Outcomes* An examination of how one's tendency to disclose information and other antecedent factors relate to the disclosure of sexual orientation and relational outcomes. **Sandra M. Ketrow**

12:00 - 1:00 lunch

1:00 - 1:50 Aging

*The Contemporary Experiences of Older Lesbians in Amsterdam* An exploration, through personal interviews, of the lives of older lesbians who are currently living in the Netherlands. **Amy Black**

2:00 - 3:30 Heterosexism & Sexism

*"But I'm Not Homophobic!": Exploring Subtle Heterosexism and Sexism in the Workplace* Discussion and workshop on the ways in which heterosexism and sexism intersect and pervade interpersonal interactions and assumptions about others. **Joy S. Whitman, Cyndy J. Boyd & Rob Ferguson**

3:45 - 5:00 Race & Sexuality

*Constrained Bodies: Racism in Queer Theory* An examination of how racist paradigms can and do limit the effectiveness of Queer Theory as a useful base for academic and activist thinking. **Ellen M. Gil-Gomez**

*The Poetics of Essex Hemphill: Journey into Black Gay Male Subjectivity* A study of Essex Hemphill's poetry as the site of an emergent form of radical black subjectivity: the black gay male. **Guy Foster III**

*The Politics of AfroHomosexuality and James Baldwin's Another Country* Through an "Afrocentric" reading of James Baldwin's novel, *Another Country*, themes in the novel -- love, desire, oppression of sexual identity -- are connected with present day experiences of black gays in the age of AIDS. **Charles E. Clifton**

7:00 Mini Film Festival (in White Hall Auditorium)

An evening of short independent films by lesbian and gay directors followed by an *Ellen* surprise. Discussion to be led by **Jean Walton**.

Saturday, April 12

9:30 - 10:30 History/Anthropology

*Unity and Diversity in Third Sex Categories Cross-Culturally* A critique of sex and gender dimorphism using two case examples of the Ihamana and the hijras. Also included will be a discussion of current writings of transgendered Euro/Americans who reject the medical standard of changing from one to the "opposite" sex and who are instead calling for the recognition of alternative gender roles. **Anne Pollock**

*Was Jane Addams a Lesbian? Issues in the Interpretation of Historical Lesbianism*

Discussion of Jane Addams' sexuality and analysis of her relationships with other women. **Lisa Avery**

10:45 - 11:15 Religion

*Love, Sex, and Marriage: A Liberal Christian View and its Relevance to the GLBT Community* An examination of the Bible and ancient biblical rules governing sex in context of those times and cultures leading to a religious argument in favor of making same gender marriage both legal, and affirmed and celebrated in religious institutions. It will also provide some ammunition to those within the GLBT community who find themselves faced with the arguments of the Religious Right. **Bill Bartels**

11:30 - 12:00 Artistic Expressions

*Comedies of Constructed Gender and Other Fantasies* Ms Bostrom will present her work (which will be displayed during the entire symposium) and share her intrigue with the "construction of gender." **Leslie Bostrom**

12:00 - 1:00 lunch

1:00 - 2:00 Workshop: Community Organizing

*Creating Change through the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities* How do you motivate people to continue working to maintain our rights when we're not in crisis? How can we be in control of our movement, rather than being crisis respondent? How do we keep the energy moving forward as the radical right moves miles ahead? This one-hour workshop promises to be educational and enlightening as it address these questions. **Karen Marshall**

2:15 - 2:45 Queer Organizing

*The Search for Community and An Alternative Family: A Case-Study of a Queer Organization* Discussion of the politics of adopting Queerness, including the positive and negative ramifications of a queer identity/community. **Amanda Buchbinder**

3:00 - 4:15 RI Community Organizations

*Advocacy for Transgendered Civil Rights* Discussion of the need for civil rights protection for transgendered persons and the relationship between lgb and transgender issues. **Beth Milham & Jan Wood-Thomas, Straight But Not Narrow Coalition (SBNNC); Gwendolyn Spencer, Transgendered Person, MORF; Shirley Smith, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Rhode Island (PFLAG-RI)**

*Homophobia 101: a Model for Training School Staff and Community Groups* Background information regarding the needs of gay and lesbian students as well as the rights of those teachers willing to speak out for them. **Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Teacher's Network of Rhode Island (GLSTN-RI)**

4:30 Closing Remarks

5:00 Reception (Multicultural Center, Upper College Road)

Please join us for hors d'oeuvres, conversation, and a celebration of this year's symposium.

# THE NAMES PAGE

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- ▼ Rebecca McCrorie
- ▼ Gerald DeShepper
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- ▼ Tom Dougan
- ▼ David Noble
- ▼ Mike Phelan
- ▼ Sandi Leao
- ▼ Joe Simoes
- ▼ Christine Smith
- ▼ Marti Rosenberg
- ▼ Nancy Bailey
- ▼ Stasia Dowlings
- ▼ Cathy Lewis

## Friends

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- ▼ Elizabeth Connors
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