1997

3rd Annual LGBT Symposium Program

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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 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
WITH BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

RI Senator Karen Nygaard
Bristol

KATHYS' GROUP, INC.
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MEETINGS ARE HELD TWICE A MONTH ON THURSDAY EVENINGS FROM 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. THE MEETINGS ARE FREE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: RITA GOOD AT 783-1601

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION:
CONTACT: LORRY OR DORRIE AT 789-6414 (9:30 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT)
E-MAIL: KATHYSGROUPINC@JUNO.COM
PO BOX 409 WAKEFIELD, RI 02880-0409

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Symposium Planning Committee

Chair .......... Holly J. Nichols
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
- Nancy Azar
- Bill Bartels
- John Blakeslee
- Gary Burkholder
- Mary Cappello
- David Clayton
- Joan Coleman
- Adria Evans
- Edith Fester
- Bette Harrison
- Sally Ann Hay
- Lavender Thumbs Garden Club
- Al Lott
- Beth & Russ Milham
- Kathryn Murray
- Ashley Nichols
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- Stacey Rinner
- Marie Rudd
- Katja Sarkowsky
- Jan Sawyer
- Dana Shugar
- Carolina Tejera
- Tim Tierne
- Michael Vocino, Jr.
- 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 Campston

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 Nethrlands 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 alternative routes for visibility
Andrea Herrmann

9:30 - 10:00  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, Jolene 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. Korow

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. Whittman, 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-González

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  Gay 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. Citron

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 hammer and the hijras. Also included will be a discussion of current writings of transgendered Euro/Ameri cans 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 locked 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 critique 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 LGBT and transgender issues  Beth Milham & Jan Wood-Thomas, Straight But Not Narrow Coalition (SNN); Gwendolyn Speer, Transgendered Person, MORP; 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.
We would like to thank the following for their financial support. Because of their generosity, the Symposium remains free and open to all.

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THE NAMES PAGE

Contributors
- Donna Bickford
- Sari Eklund
- Nancy Hawksley
- Pamela Burns
- Bernice Lott
- Rebecca McCrorie
- Gerald DeShepper
- Carolyn Sovel
- Melissa Lovering
- Carolina Tejera
- Michael Hamilton
- Connie MacCloy

- Linda Perry
- Gregory McNab
- Tom Dougan
- David Noble
- Mike Phelan
- Sandi Leao
- Joe Simoes
- Christine Smith
- Marti Rosenberg
- Nancy Bailey
- Stasia Dowlings
- Cathy Lewis

Friends
- Stacey Rinner & Holly Nichols
- Steve Grubman-Black & Friends
- In Loving Support of LGTB Teens
- Sandor Kissman
- Elizabeth Connors
- The URI Women's Center
- Adria Evans & Beth Richmond
- Unconventional Wisdom
- Kathy Olival
- Linda Mayers

- Al Lott
- Karyn Samdperil & Renee Walker
- Gwenneth Rae
- Kat Quina & David Miller
- Andrew Winters
- Lavender Thumbs Garden Club
- PFLAG
- Reverend William Bartels
- Heather Kaye Tilles

Benfactors
- Dana Shugar
- Lois Cuddy
- Judith Anderson

- Michael Vocino, Jr.
- Greta Cohen
- John Leo (fairy godmother)

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