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1995

## H&H Committee Mid September Meeting Details

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# ANOTHER MEETING!

*Brent*

① Wants to postpone until Spring  
 Poss. Bring you + Barbara Smith together for Conference?  
 Next fall or winter? Probably  
 Dana will try for February  
 particular night? Tuesday seems best

*Ch*

The next meeting of the  
Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism

will be held:

**Friday September 29**  
**12:00 Noon**  
**Room 202, Memorial Union**

## AGENDA \*

1. Joan Nestle to be POSTPONED. Unfortunately, she was in an accident. Dana will fill us in.
2. SYMPOSIUM '96 *Barbara, Justin, Al, Brent*  
 -- Has April 10-12 date been confirmed with Barbara Smith?  
 -- Discussion of wording of Call For Papers.  
 -- Other details?
3. Should we do an H&H URI resource brochure for the campus?
4. Shall we have a Start the Year Right Party? Should this be combined social with the GLBA?  
 Lois has offered her place as venue -- now all we need is a time and a menu!  
*Lois not here, GLBA/URI/URI/URI* *Want to have one Fri 27, 6:30pm Location TBA.*
5. Setting our priorities for the semester and for the year. *Will check in with Lois to see if this works*
6. Other business?

*Dana... will handle Barbara Smith*  
*Nelly - Ples*  
*fore - Ples*  
*Amg*  
*Chafle?*  
*Fine Arts*  
*Whit 113*  
*Sandy Audin*  
*Call Fore out*  
*2431*

*Sat 25 - Halloween Party*  
*Ch*

③ Brent - ~~the~~ *Wish* or *Ples* - can be changed to include *Staff*  
*Can will work with Brent + GLBA*



5. *Brent: Dyer TV Thu, Oct 12. Attention of*  
*Mk. Approx 7:00pm*  
*Need to ~~be~~ consider the steps to*  
*do.*

*P/S/SA*  
*Social Communicate*  
*to broader campus*  
*community*  
*Also: get high email account*

**\*NOTE: SAVE TREES! BRING THIS AGENDA TO THE MEETING SO NO ADDITIONAL COPIES WILL NEED TO BE MADE!**

*Andie NCOO - Oct 11 - Some way we can acknowledge that day?*  
*GLBA: everybody who owes something to themselves as GLB*  
*9 Ann: Get 50000 pens to distribute/sell*

COMMITTEE TO ELIMINATE HOMOPHOBIA AND HETEROSEXISM  
Minutes for Meeting on September 15, 1995

1. Attendance. The following were present at the meeting. As requested, email addresses are included for those who have accounts. All email accounts are followed by: @uriacc.uri.edu unless otherwise noted. Bill Bartels (wjb); Brie; Mary Cappello (wye101); Mary Rudd (mrudd); Jean Walton (jwalton); Dana Shugar (dshugar); Karen Hazard; Colleen Gregory (cgre); David Wright; Carla Pickering (carlap@egr.uri.edu); Holly Nichols (hnic7063); Amy Black; Laurie Johnson; Greta Cohen (gretac); Andrew Winters; Wally Sillanpoa; Lois Cuddy; Gary Burkholder (byu101).
2. Minutes were approved with a correction of the spelling of Wally Sillanpoa's name. A question was raised about the discussion concerning the statement of purpose. The chair clarified that the statement of purpose in the minutes was the one decided upon. He also noted that the issue of possible changes to the wording contained in the statement could be raised again at a later time, if desired. Mary also stressed for all the new people at the meeting that the H&H committee is a forum for discussion of problems on campus as well as taking care of routine business.
3. It was decided that we will meet every two weeks, starting today, on Fridays, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Those who wish to have items appear on the agenda should contact Bill by phone or by email (WJB). The question was raised as to whether we needed to meet every two weeks instead of perhaps every three weeks. It was decided to meet every two weeks, especially in light of symposium planning. Lois volunteered her home as a place to meet for a potluck social. Decision on a date for the social was tabled until next meeting.
4. Bill provided fliers and letters from the Counseling Center advertising the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning support group. Professors were encouraged to make the information available to students.
5. Gary provided a summary of progress on the Symposium. Barbara Smith has given agreement over the phone to be our keynote speaker, at a cost of 2000.00 (honorarium). After some discussion, it was agreed that members of the committee would take the Call for Papers with them, make any editorial changes they felt necessary, and forward them to Gary in campus mail or by electronic mail. Gary will then collect, review and incorporate requests into a revision that will be reviewed at the Sept. 29 meeting. Dana noted that the original dates of the symposium, April 3,4,5, are during Passover and Good Friday. It was tentatively decided to have the conference the following week, April 10-12. Gary will shift the reservation of the Ballroom to that week. Mary Rudd will take care of scheduling the Galanti Lounge. Amy from POWER stated that her organization would cosponsor the event. The issue of a symposium theme was raised. Andrew clarified that the conference theme would be emergent based on responses to the call for papers, recognizing that the call for papers stresses our issues of interest (ethnic and racial diversities in lesbian, gay and bisexual communities). The issue was raised about who would be the point of contact for phone inquiries and proposal submission. No decision was made.
6. Dana reported that Joan Nestle will be coming to speak October 24. Mary Rudd will investigate the availability of the Galanti Lounge for that evening. So far, Visiting Scholars has agreed to pay 400.00, and Womens Studies will cosponsor with 100.00. Total requested honorarium is 500.00. Holly, Kim, Mary Capello and Jean volunteered to help with publicity for the event. Dana stated that Joan might be interested in doing a book signing, and she is looking into the possibility of conducting class visits.
7. Bill will write a letter to the Cigar concerning the Safe zone campaign. Based on discussions from the previous year, it was desired to remind the campus on a yearly or semester basis about what the safe zone campaign is and where people can get stickers. Stickers are at the Affirmative Action office.
8. Jean reported that Al Anderson, GLBA, is doing OUTFLICKS this year. The first event will be a presentation by Dyke TV on Thursday, October 12. The GLBA wants information on requesting funds from the Richard Katzoff Foundation. It was suggested that the GLBA should contact Lynn McKimney.
9. Jean reported that the GLBA is interested in having a joint H&H/GLBA potluck social. Discussion of this was tabled until next meeting, to be discussed in conjunction with Lois' offering of her place for a social this semester. Additionally, the GLBA has set their meeting times for alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting on Tuesday, Sept. 19, for the duration of the semester.
10. Wally announced that the URI Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association of Graduate Students, Faculty and Staff is having a social on Friday, September 22, at 4:30 pm at the University Club. He distributed fliers for all to post.
11. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

**COMMITTEE TO ELIMINATE HOMOPHOBIA AND HETEROSEXISM**  
**Minutes for Meeting on September 29, 1995**

- 1 Attendance. The following were present at the meeting. Email addresses for new attendees are provided: Gary Burkholder; Brie Taylor; Kelly Kochis (kkoc1252); Dana Shugar; Brent Rheinhold (wrei9002); Laurie Johnson; Holly Nichols; Amy Black; Andrew Winters; Bill Bartels; Carla Pickering; Al Lott (alott); Jacque Lynne Washkwick (jwas6308)
2. Minutes for the 9/15/95 meeting were approved with changes (spelling of Marie Rudd; Joan Nestle's requested honorarium is 1000.00 vice 800.00; in paragraph 6, Kim should be Amy).
3. Dana reported that Joan Nestle has been in a serious accident and will not be able to make the originally schedule appearance on October 24. However, she does want to come later. The committee discussed two options - having Joan come for the Symposium, along with Barbara Smith, as well as the possibility of having her here earlier in the winter Dana will contact Joan and see if Joan could come to URI in February. It was decided that Tuesday night would be the best evening.
4. Symposium update Gary updated the committee on recent developments. Barbara Smith has agreed to Wed, Apr 10 as the night for her to speak. She has provided us with her CV and biography. Edwards Auditorium is not available on that night, but other suggestions from the committee were: Fine Arts auditorium (contact: X2431); Chafee; White Hall; Independence Auditorium. The committee provided final input to the call for papers. Gary pleaded for volunteers to help the committee do the mailings. Dana agreed to take care of the arrangements for Barbara Smith; Kelly will assist in preparing the brochure; Brie will design the poster (he would like to have some ideas earlier to give him more preparation time); Jacque, Holly, Laurie and Amy will help with the mailings. The subcommittee is going to meet sometime during the next two weeks to continue planning and to get the mailings out.
5. Gary brought a request from the counseling center concerning the need for a brochure that advertises resources available to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people on this campus. Brent stated that GLBA was in the process of preparing a pamphlet that could easily be expanded to include other resources on campus. Gary offered to help Brent include the other resources.
- 6 A social for GLBA and H&H committee members was tentatively set for Friday, Oct. 27 at 6:30 pm. Lois expressed an interest in having it at her place. Since she was not in attendance, Bill will call her and offer that time for a potluck at her place. If this date isn't good, Bill will ask for alternate dates that might be better.
7. Andrew thought that we might try to do a better job at reaching out to other areas of campus (i.e. staff) for generating support for the Faculty, Staff and Graduate Student GLBA. The next social is scheduled for Oct. 13, 4:30 to 6:00 at the University Club. Also, Gary reported that we are going to be able to get an email account for our group.
8. Brent announced that Dyke TV will be here Thur, Oct 12 in Atrium 1+2 of the Memorial Union.
9. We briefly discussed setting priorities for the year. Bill asked everyone to think about things we can be doing to carry out our mission. Andrew asked if there were some way to acknowledge National Coming Out Day (NCOD) on October 11. Brent reported that the GLBA is planning on asking all who are comfortable to wear something that identifies them as gay, lesbian or bisexual. Bill suggested that we contact Straight But Not Narrow to get their pins to sell on that day.
10. Andrew made two announcements. First, Aurelio Madrigal (a grad assistant to Residential Life) is coordinating a poetry series. The first is Oct 5, 8:00 pm, in Atrium B+C of the Memorial Union. It is a faculty and staff reading. Second, Andrew and Aurelio are coordinating a Social Justice and Human Rights meeting for students. The first meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 3, 8:00 pm in Roosevelt Hall.
11. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm. The next meeting is Friday, Oct. 13.

Minutes for Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism

December 14, 1995

*More room & more light?*

1. Meeting was convened at 12:05pm.
2. Attendance: Gary Burkholder, Bill Bartels, Holly Nichols, Carla Pickering, Marie Rudd, Gwendolyn A. Spencer, Andrew Winters, Jacque Lynne Washkwich.
3. Minutes for the December 1 meeting were approved.
4. Transgender Issue. Gary presented comments from Julie (a transgender URI student) concerning inclusion of transgender in the title. The first three paragraphs were read (this is a direct statement of her text): "I think that a lot of queer groups are on a bandwagon right now to change names to be more inclusive about issues that are very important, but many of the groups doing this really have no clue about these issues.

So I have mixed feelings about this. While it is a good idea to take a hard look at these issues, I fear that some groups are just changing the name just to say "look, we've done this" but not moving any further in terms of educating itself about transgender issues.

However, in the long run, none of this really matters - what a name change will do is to tell transgendered people that we are welcome to join the group and that it is there for us. This will, in turn, have the effect that when one of us joins we will feel entitled to have our issues addressed and the group will be forced to deal with these issues one way or another"

*would this be true of WRT group?*

The text in its entirety will be made available at the next meeting.

Next, Gwendolyn presented. (I will do my best to capture the conversation between Gwendolyn and the committee. I apologize for any omissions, they are not intentional. Also, I don't use quotes. Unless otherwise noted, the comments presented are Gwendolyn's).

She stated that the name change doesn't really matter. A group can embrace issues of transgender issues, but the name doesn't have to be reflective of this. There are pros and cons. The major "con" is that transgender is an issue of gender, not sexuality. Gwendolyn's response to this is that without gender, there would be no sexuality. There has been much discrimination against transgender people inside and outside of the gay community. It is a problem in San Francisco right now.

Transgender issues are the same as gay issues. Minnesota is the only state to include "transgender" in their civil rights bill. In Rhode Island, transgender people are not protected. RI removed this portion of the bill to help bolster its chances for passage. This issues are there, they are real, and they affect drag queens and kings, cross-dressers, and female impersonators. Transgender is perceived by a lot of people to be the same as gay. There is a fine line between gay and transgendered. In the past year, 2 known transgendered people have been killed. In Rhode Island, there has been only one, and that happened in late 1992 or 1993.

On experience at RI College: Gwendolyn was the only openly transgendered person at RIC. There were others, but they were not out. GLOBE (RIC's equivalent to the GLBA) tended to become exclusively gay and lesbian, at the exclusion of transgender and even of bisexuals. For the most part, Gwendolyn said she didn't have a bad experience at RIC. She lost only one acquaintance. She became transgendered during her time at school, so professors knew her as both genders. She got no hate letters, and professors were generally good about it. She said that GLOBE couldn't handle the transgender issue. One male said: "Why do you want to be a woman? I like being a man." A female told her: "You have had male privilege, you are not like us."

Bill asked about lobbying by transgendered community for rights. Gwendolyn said that transgender makes up about 10% of the gay community, and there are about 1000 transgender people in RI, 100 or so she personally knows. Those who participate in organizations do so outside of the state, for fear of loss of job and family. People don't realize that transgender involvement in the gay civil rights movement was significant until the late 70's. They are always there at parades, demonstrations, etc. Female-to-male transsexual is more accepted than male-to-female transsexual: the first is considered a "step up" and the

er a "step down". People also don't realize that transgender men were the ones being beat up and put into paddy wagons at Stonewall, the macho men just looked on. The gay community, over time, began kicking out extremes, including transgender. This is when transgendered people began to organize and lobby more for themselves. Gwendolyn emphasized that there is room in the civil rights movement for everyone, we are all fighting for the same thing. In the March on Washington in 1993, there was a 40 person contingent. Transgender were not allowed to turn right into the mall. Gwendolyn overheard one of the marshalls state that "We don't want to confuse people". At the recent Stonewall commemoration in NYC, initially, no transgender were allowed to march. Then, to allay criticism, it was decided that they could march, but without banners. When some transgendered legal people threatened the organizers, the transgender community was allowed to march with banners. In Texas, which is currently trying to pass civil rights legislation, the transgender community rallied, and forced the gtb community to listen to their concerns. HRCF refused to include transgender inclusion in their statement. Transgender reps were not allowed time to testify. Gwendolyn felt that, on a national level, things are coming around, but it is slow, and she realizes that change is slow.

Carla commented that, even if we don't include "Transgender" in the title of the brochure, the Committee needs to look at the issue. *submitter?*

Bill commented about the tradeoff between the principle of equality and the practical politics involved in passing legislation. Gwendolyn acknowledged that the transgender issue tends to damage the agendas for civil rights legislation. In Rhode Island, 2 house reps told William Fitzpatrick and Frank Gashon: "If transgender wording is not excluded, the bill would be killed before it even gets to the floor". Gwendolyn is not happen about what happened, but understands why it did. She said that many are mistrustful of the Alliance because of what happened in the House during debate on the bill.

Andrew commented that transgender people are still targets of heterosexism and homophobia. Gwendolyn stated that transsexuals are a small part of a larger transgender community.

Marie wanted to know how we should include transgender in our organizations. Gwendolyn made the analogy that transgender people are today where gay and lesbian people were in the 50's and 60's. They feel they have no voice, that they have no say in any of the issues. 90% of the gay community feels that transgendered people are fetishists. What we can offer is a place where transgender people can go and where they would feel welcome. *This is for GLBA's to decide though.*

There was some brief discussion about how the GLBA and H&H committee could work together to educate ourselves in this issue.

5. It was decided that the decision for including "Transgender", as well as the issue concerning whether to include committee members as personal contacts in cases of homophobia, should be decided at the first meeting of the winter semester, when more people are there to engage in the debate. Gary will make all changes to the brochure with those two exceptions.

6. Jacque drafted a response letter to the Journal concerning the placement of an article on gay and lesbian teenages between two articles on AIDS. She wondered if we as a committee wanted to submit the letter. Because of the attendance, we did not feel we could make a decision for the whole committee. Individuals interested will sign on the letter, and Jacque will mail it to the Journal, with copies to Gordon Smith and the Front Page editor.

7. Bill is going to look into getting a larger room for our next meeting.

8. The next meeting is January 19, 1995, 12:00.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.