

To the Dear Allen.

Welcome to the Maine Gay Symposium - what I hope will be the beginning of an effective campaign for Gay Liberation in the state of Maine. This symposium comes after months of controversy throughout our state - especially in the Bangor area.

Hopefully, through the efforts of everyone in this room today, the stereotypes of Gay people will be smashed, and the discrimination and harassment of homosexuals ended. This is a long-range effort. It is a campaign for human rights. It is a movement for both Gays and Straights alike who believe that if any minority is denied its ^{freedom} ~~civil rights~~, then no one can be assured of his or her rights.

We of the Wilde-Stein Club are proud to contribute to the Gay movement. Many of us have experienced an unprecedented solidarity with Gays throughout the country. We have received letters of encouragement from Colorado, Michigan, New York, Florida, Ohio and Massachusetts. This is not ~~merely~~ a movement centered in one or two specific cities; it is a nation-^{al} ~~wide~~ phenomenon which is rapidly becoming world-wide in scope.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ A year ago, there was one ~~organized~~ Gay ^{organization} group in this state, Gay Support & Action in Bangor. Today there are at least ^{six} ~~six~~ strongly organized groups in Maine, besides the Bangor group: Gay Rights Organization in Portland; Hancock County Gays in the Ellsworth area; The Bridge at Colby College; a group at the Brunswick Women's Center; and The Wilde-Stein Club, here at Orono. We have decided to carry on the fight in Maine. Most of us were born and raised here and have grown to love this state. ~~We believe that Maine people will accept us if given the chance to see us -- to see that we are no~~

threat to them, but are, rather, friends, neighbors and relatives -- people they have lived with all their lives.

As I mentioned before, it is a long-range effort. We may not attain our total liberation in the 70's, but we are making great progress; *there is the obvious fact that* ~~do you realize~~ that this is a Gay Symposium in Orono, Maine?! A few years ago this would have been inconceivable. We are growing restless in our closets, and some of us have come out - proud of our sexuality. We ^{will not} ~~cannot~~ be ignored. We are here and we are here to demand what is rightfully ours.

Today, we have an impressive representation of the national Gay movement as well as dedicated Gays working in the New England area. ~~I would first like to thank Vito Russo for his mediocre presentation. Kissy kissy, to him.~~

announcements

Dr. Brown
Vito Russo
Workshop
Thank you

~~Adminis~~
university community
both gay + straight

How are the speakers getting to these places where they are staying?