



**COMING OUT WITH PRIDE**

*MAINE LESBIANS, GAYMEN,  
BISEXUAL, & TRANSGENDERED'S*  
**SYMPOSIUM XXII**



*August 17th - 19th, 1996*  
*College of the Atlantic*  
*On the Ocean, Bar Harbor, Maine*

**A VOICE FOR MAINE WOMEN**

The Maine Women's Lobby works in partnership with the Women's Development Institute to promote economic and educational opportunities and expand the rights of Maine women.



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The freedom to be your natural self is elementary to your mental and emotional health...Only when you step into the reality of outing yourself can you begin to feel the potency of self-affirmation - the first heady signs of it all coming together in body, mind and spirit - a fresh start, a vital new option.

- Michelangelo Signorile,  
Outing Yourself



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## WELCOME TO SYMPOSIUM XXII -

### COMING OUT WITH PRIDE !

We have worked hard, and are very excited to have this weekend finally here! A few reminders:

- ☞ You Must Present a meal ticket to eat!
- ☞ Your Rainbow Tie is your admittance to all events except meals - Please make sure it is visible.
- ☞ No 'Open Containers' - No Alcohol on Campus except during the Sunday Night Dance.
- ☞ No smoking in any building.
- ☞ No pets at all on campus, loose or in cars! Area kennels are listed in the phone book. The most convenient and the one local committee members would use is Acadia Veterinary Hospital - 288-5850.

As you experience the weekend, please think of what has mattered most to you and bring a symbol of that to the Closing Circle to give away.

We thank those who have trodden this path before us and those who will organize future Symposium. This gathering is one of our community's cherished traditions. We are proud and feel privileged to have made a contribution and we hope that you thoroughly enjoy the weekend! If you enjoy it a fraction of how we enjoyed planning and preparing it - then we have accomplished what we intended!

Again! Have a Fun, Safe and Stimulating Time!!

Sincerely,

Larry, Lin, Mark, Rosemarie & Trevor

## **SHIRA**

Shira Means "song" in Hebrew. The group is an all women a capella group from the Rockland area. They specialize in freedom songs, folk songs, ethnic songs from around the world, songs about women's issues and gospel music. They are rumored to be working on some politically irrelevant Beatles music as well! We are delighted to have them open the weekend for us and welcome you all to Symposium XXII.

**VIDEOS!** Videos can be checked out for use during the weekend. There will be a variety of locations on campus to view them. See the folks at the registration table. Thank you to the woman at Ya Gotta Love It! Videos in Southwest Harbor for the loan of videos.

### **Hmmmmmm!!!**

"I hate the word *Lifestyle*. It's idiotic when applied to sexual orientation - would you refer to left-handedness as an 'alternative lifestyle'?" - Angela Pattatucci

## **Maine Lesbian and Gay Law Association**

MeLeGaL was founded in 1993 to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, to promote unity among legal professionals of diverse sexual orientations, to educate on legal issues, and to assure fair and just treatment of all people under the law. Membership is open to all lawyers, law students, and other members of the legal community.

For more information:  
MeLeGal  
P.O. Box 443  
Portland, ME 04112



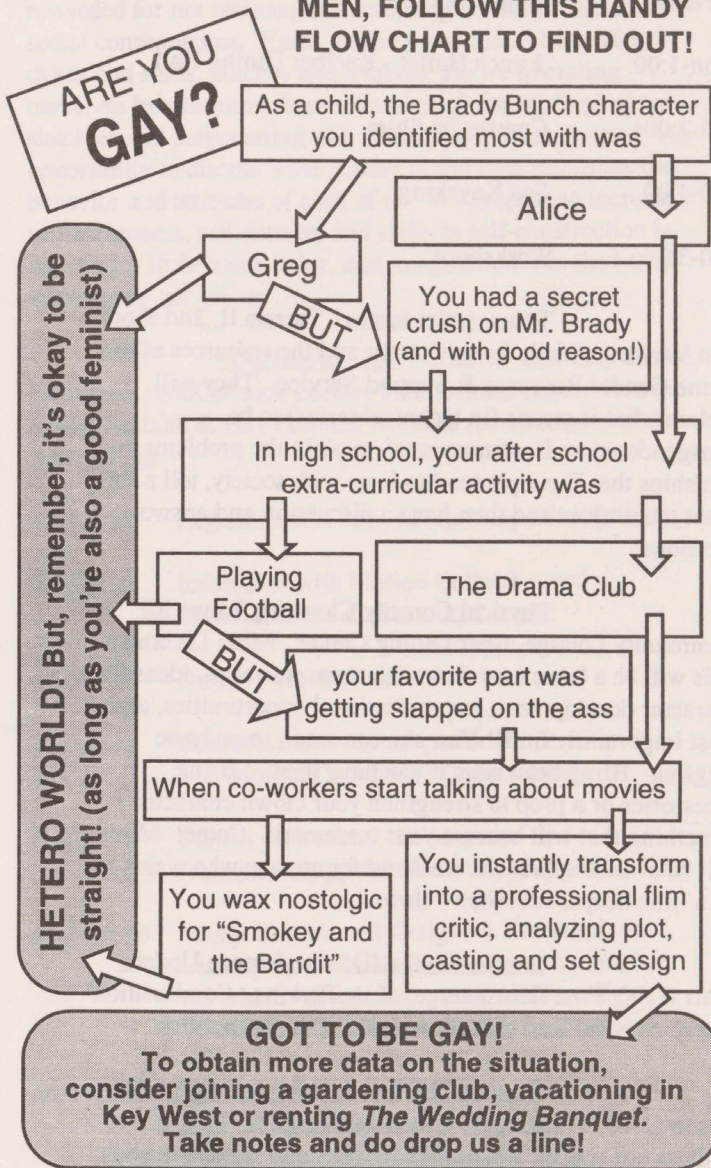
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**MEN, FOLLOW THIS HANDY  
FLOW CHART TO FIND OUT!**



From *Who Cares If It's a Choice? Snappy Answers to 101 Nosy, Intrusive  
and Highly-Personal Questions about Lesbians and Gay Men*

© 1994 by Ellen Orleans

Laugh Lines Press (215) 668-4252

## Saturday, August 17

- |           |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 10-Noon   | Registration                       |
| Noon-1:00 | Lunch Buffet - Kaelber Dining Hall |
| 1:00-2:00 | Concert by Shira                   |
| 2:00-4:00 | Sea Kayaking                       |
| 2:00-3:30 | Workshops:                         |

Transgender Issues. Turrets II, 2nd Floor. Jean Vermette, Holly Lynn Ostrom and the resources of the Maine Gender Resource & Support Service. They will explain what it means (in technical terms) to be transgendered and/or transsexual, explain the problems and hardships that T-people tend to have with society, tell a little about themselves and then have a discussion and answer questions.

Physical Comedy/Clowning/Mime 101  
Community Lounge, Near Dining Center. Mitzi Lichtman. This will be a basic overview with some warmups, ideas for character development, improvisational opportunities, and most importantly fun!!! Yes, she can teach some basic juggling. Bring bean bags if you have them. Bring accessories or a prop to strengthen your clown character - something that will become your trademark. Come! Mitzi will be available over the weekend for anyone who wants to go a little deeper into their "clown".

International AIDS Conference Update.  
Blair G100, First floor lounge. Kate Perkins. Combination therapies, viral load testing, microbicides and politics!

Raising Children in Alternative Families.  
Tyson C300, Third floor. Rosemarie Hughes. How do we address our special situations? We'll share stories, lessons learned and go from there.

Pink Closet or Blue Closet? Constructing Queer Gender and How it Affects Our Lives. Blair E200, Second floor lounge. Craig Sheerin & Mary Lou Dietrich. We, who had no choice in the choosing of a gender and who

have little choice but to live with it under patriarchy, are busy constantly reproducing it, being reminded of it, and being rewarded for not resisting but accepting it with predictable social consequences. Earth mothers and basket boys, diesel dykes and studs, butches and femmes, are we liberating ourselves by assuming these identities, or are we forging new shackles and perpetuating the mandatory gender system? An opportunity to discuss what gender is and how it formats the behavior and attitudes of each of us. We propose to increase self-awareness, self-esteem, and skills in self-construction by injecting a little relief, color, and imagination into the belief systems we call selves.

"Decline to Sign" Cosby's Anti-Gay Tirade Continues. McCormick Lecture Hall ,behind Gates. Join the Maine Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance for discussion and strategizing.

4:00-5:30 Registration continued and Key Distribution

5:30-6:30 Icebreaker with Motion Collective and Introductions - Community Lounge

6:30-7:30 Dinner - Kaelber Hall

7:30-8:30 Improvisational dance performance with The Motion Collective - Gates Center

8:30-8:45 Stay in your seats! - Educational and Humorous Puppetshow by the Puppetones

8:45-10:30 Musty Chiffon will Delight & Entertain you with her special award winning voice and her wit which "dwells between the Extremely Ironic and the Weirdly Sincere." Mark Doty

10:45ish-? Stargazing and Storytelling - meet at the Gates Community Center and travel to the summit of Mount Cadillac with Tuma Young-Honig

10:45ish-? Readings, Poetry, Works in Progress, etc. Share your work or listen to others. A Coffee House will be set up for socializing or just plain old winding down.

**The Motion Collective** is an improvisational dance and music ensemble whose members hail from Mt Desert Island and surrounding communities. In the true spirit of being a collective, they all have various interests and dance backgrounds. In the real world they are teachers, molecular biologists, carpenters, massage therapists, dance therapists, students and professional dancers. Each brings their own unique talent and perspective to the group. Their works range from the strictly choreographed to structured improv to pure "on the edge" improv. One of the primary goals is that of exploration. They seek to create and enjoy the interactive worlds of movement, sound and words. As they are a group of fourteen, it is by no means a surprise that indeed, they represent a spectrum of human sexuality. The joy of being open and totally accepted among themselves creates a unique bond. Join them tonight, as they explore political, social, psychological and sexual issues. Some of the dancing will be choreographed and some created on the spot! You may be called upon to help! Who knows where THAT will lead?

## **DOWN EAST AIDS NETWORK**

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**Maine Speakout Project.** The Project trains volunteer humans and puppets to speak about what it's like to be excluded when a person's sexual orientation is different from the majority. They talk about the discrimination we face, and about the joy and pride we feel in who we are.



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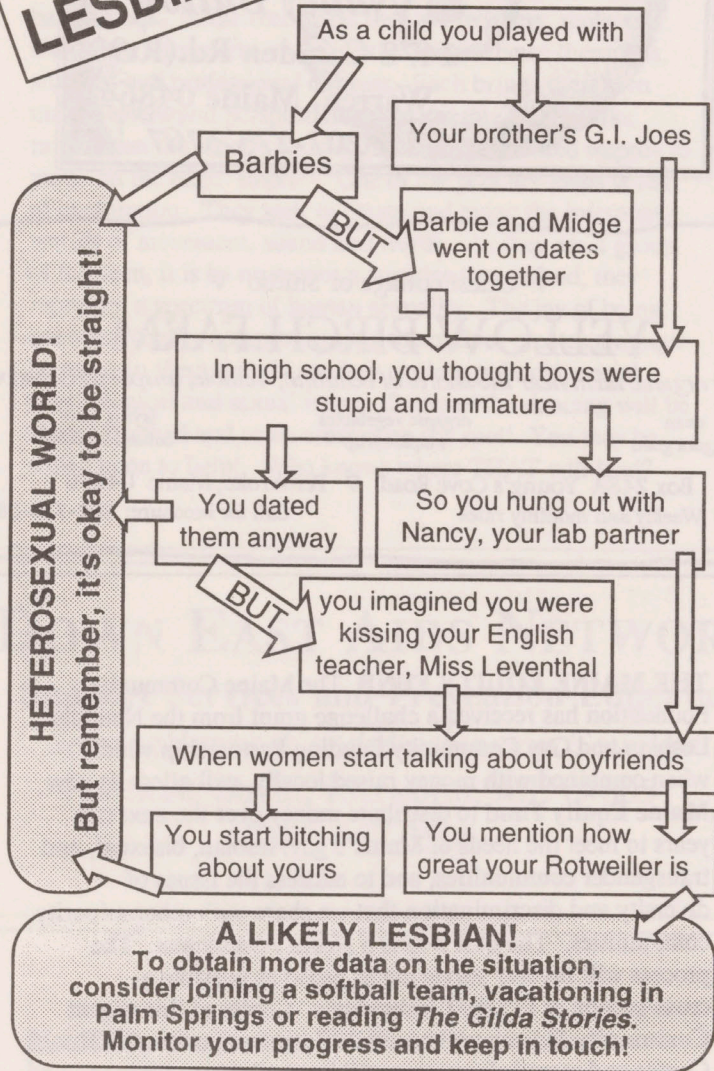
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**THE MAINE EQUITY FUND** The Maine Community Foundation has received a challenge grant from the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership which, when combined with money raised locally, will allow its new **Maine Equity Fund** to distribute money over the next two years to meet the needs of Maine's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities, and to address the issues of diversity and discrimination that we share with other minority communities. The first step is a Needs Assessment. The process will involve surveying as broad as possible a cross-section of G/L/B/T individuals. Copies of this urgent **Community Survey** will be available at Symposium XXII. Copies and more information will be available at the Registration table.

# ARE YOU A LESBIAN?

## FOLLOW THIS HANDY FLOW CHART TO FIND OUT



From *Who Cares If It's a Choice? Snappy Answers to 101 Nosy, Intrusive and Highly-Personal Questions about Lesbians and Gay Men*

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**Sunday, August 18**

6:00-8:00 am Sea Kayaking *Bike the Carriage Paths with Noreen*

8:00-9:00am Breakfast

9:00-10:00am Keynote - Michelangelo Signorile, columnist for Out Magazine and author of Queer in America and Outing Yourself.

10:30-Noon Workshops:

Queer Looks: The Pleasures and Perils of Appearance. Blair G100, First floor lounge. Author, educator and activist Wendy Chapkis (Beauty Secrets: women and the politics of appearance) will lead a discussion on the subject of body image in the queer community. How do we see ourselves and how are we seen? What is at stake for "ugly dykes" and lipstick lesbians, sissy boys and leather daddies, passing pervs and (trans)gender outlaws?

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender - why stop there? Tyson C300, Third floor. Doug Kimmel & Peter Reese. What is the whole range of human sexual orientation? A chance to reflect and to talk over some of the questions.

Long Term Relationships. Community Lounge, Near the dining hall. Mark and Ernie will lead you through questions and suggestions on how we manage our own long term commitments. Share stories and words of wisdom!

Lesbians and Gays in Education. Blair E200, Second floor lounge. Rita Kissen, author of The last Closet: The Real Lives of Lesbian and Gay Teachers, and Lin Gould, teacher. How do we survive working in this homophobic environment? We will exchange survival stories and suggestions for handling stress!

The Writing & Publishing Process for the Gay & Lesbian Market. Turrets II, Second floor. Nancy Little, author of Thin Fire and The Grass Widow, will share experiences, writing suggestions, stories. Bring Questions!

Maine Speakout Project. McCormick

Lecture Hall, Behind Gates. Come hear from Maine Speakout volunteers and project director Jonathan Lee about what they're doing to create "dialogues on discrimination" to reduce anti-gay prejudice and stereotypes in Maine. You don't need to be a speaker to join Speakout!

12:00-1:00pm Lunch

1:00-6:00pm Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center - Women's Cancer Screening Clinic. The Cottage (see map).

1:00-3:00pm Sea Kayaking

1:00-2:30pm Workshops:

Maine Equal Rights Network. McCormick

Lecture Hall, Behind Gates. Building on the energy that was used to defeat Question 1 last November, we are working hard to establish a state-wide network of equal rights, civil rights, and social justice organizations and activists. We want to give the network a name, elect a steering committee and plan our commitment to address G, L, B & T issues and to create bonds of understanding among all participants.

Wet, Wild and Safe. Seafox Lounge, the cottage beyond Turrets, down on the shore. Deborah Carney, Jeane Curtis and members of the New York Lesbian AIDS Project will collaborate on a workshop on sexuality, safer sex issues & techniques, and communication.

Men and Public Sex Environments.

Community Lounge, Near dining hall. Ron King and Shawn Walsh. What issues surface as we or friends of ours engage in sex in public environments (rest areas, etc) ?

Issues Around Coming Out at Work. Blair G100, First floor lounge. Judy Edgerly. A chance to discuss various ways of handling our personal lives at work. Every situation is different, some things change with time and some things don't. Tell your stories and share your support!

Outright/Issues Around Working With Youth. Blair E200, Second floor lounge. A chance for youth

to share stories and issues, for adults to remember that time of their lives, and for us all to talk about working together effectively, safely and joyfully.

Surviving With Sanity in Rural Areas.

Tyson C300, Third floor. How do we do it? What strategies work to lessen the burden of isolation?

3:00-5:00pm Sea Kayaking

3:00-5:00pm Workshop:

Lucy Blue Tremblay, "Heart of the Song".

Community Lounge, Near dining hall.

3:00-5:00pm Femme vs Butch - Great Volleyball Tourney

6:00-7:00pm Dinner

7:00-7:45pm 12 Step Meeting. Tyson C300

7:00-8:00pm Symposium Forever! Board Meeting.  
Blair, G100.

7:00-8:00pm Bisexual Concerns Drop-In. Turrets II.

7:00-8:00pm Volleyball Tourney. Defending Champs  
offer a 2nd chance.....!

8:15-10:30pm Concert with Lucie Blue Tremblay. Gates  
Community Center.

10:45pm-2:30am Dance with the 'soon to be famous around  
the state' (he's already famous here!!!),  
DJ Mark as your host and mixer!

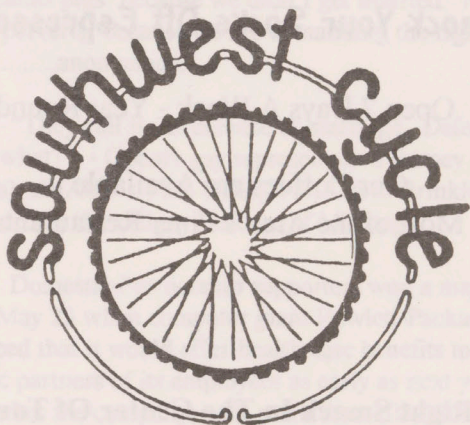
For a quieter time, the nearby Blair Dining  
Hall will be open for Coffee House. Come  
socialize with your new friends and old  
friends. Play games and have stimulating  
conversations.

For those of you interested in an extremely  
satisfying challenge - start planning  
Symposium XXIII!! !

**Monday, August 19**

- 7:00am            Bike Mt Cadillac with Noreen
- 9:00-10:00am    Brunch
- 10:00-10:45am    Keynote. Pat Peard, President of the  
Maine Civil Liberties Union and Chair of  
the Executive Board of Maine Won't  
Discriminate.
- 10:45-Noon        Annual Town Meeting
- Noon-1:30pm     Closing Circle
- 1:30-Sunset       Room keys must be returned by 2:00. You  
are welcome to remain parked on campus, and you are  
welcome to enjoy the campus and/or the town. The grounds  
and washroom facilities will remain open and available for  
your convenience until sunset.

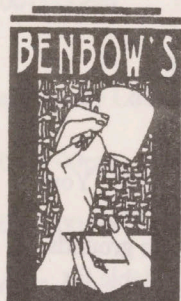
**Farewell, best wishes and peace to you all ! See you next  
year at Symposium XXIII !!!**



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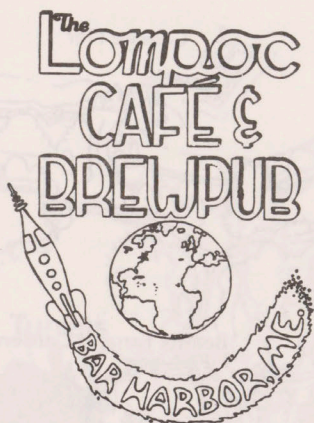
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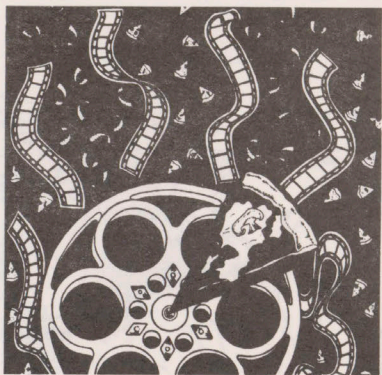
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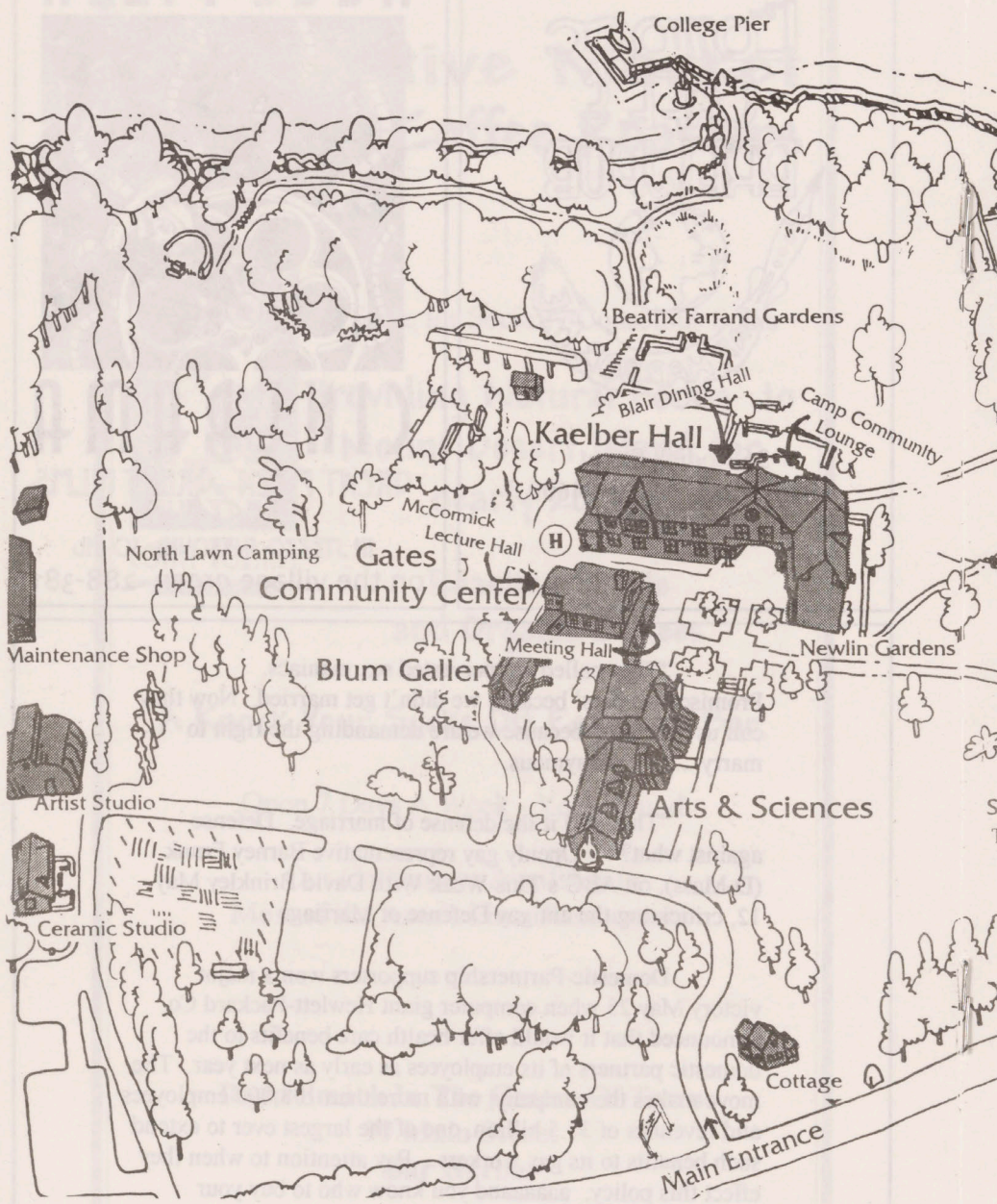
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“They called us ‘perverted sex maniacs. Promiscuous pigs’ because we didn’t get married. Now they call us ‘perverts’ because we are demanding the right to marry.....anonymous.

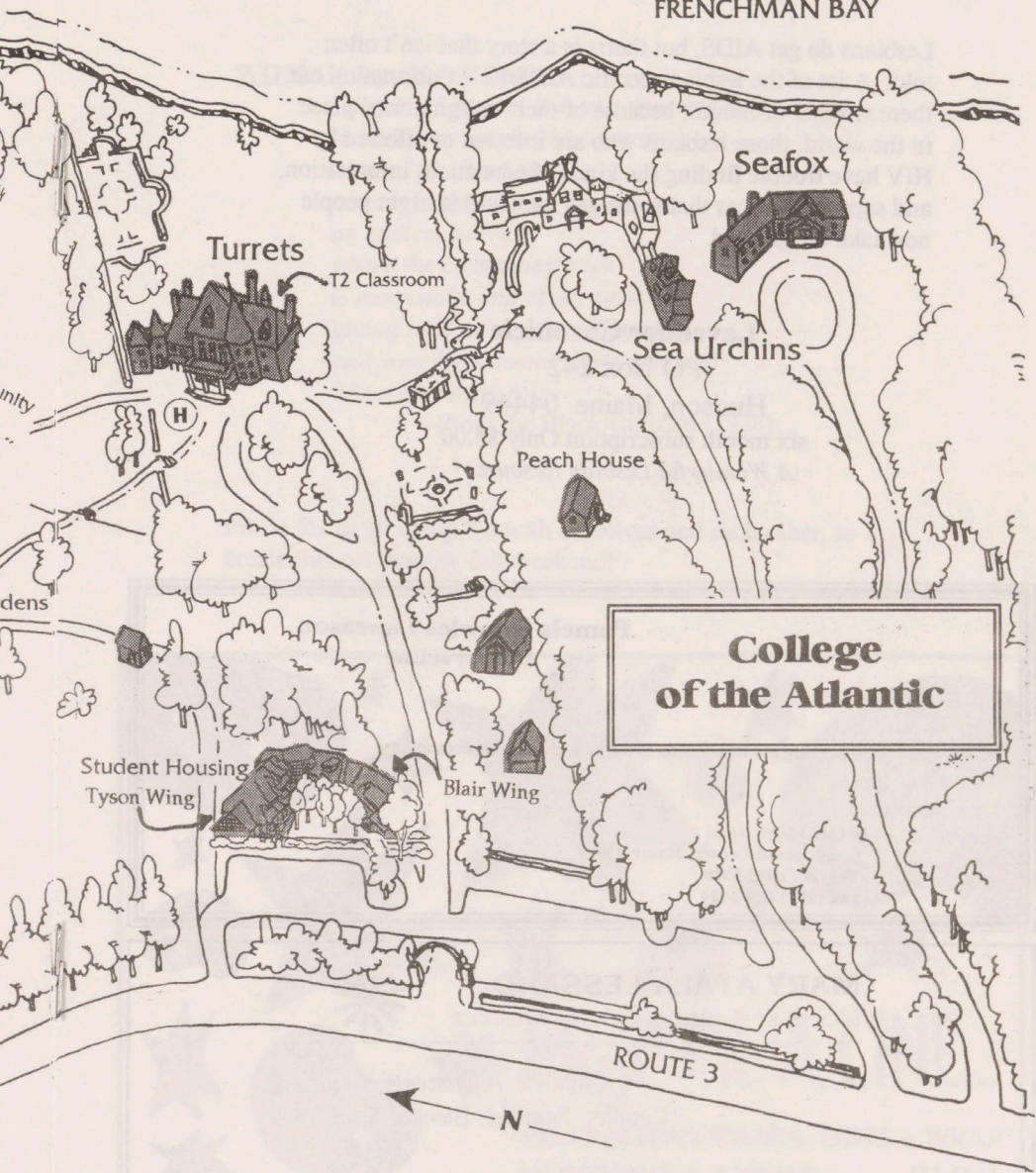
“They call it the defense of marriage. Defense against what?” - Openly gay representative Barney Frank (D-Mass), on ABC’s This Week With David Brinkley May 12, criticizing the antigay Defense of Marriage

Domestic-Partnership supporters won a major victory May 23 when computer giant Hewlett-Packard Co. announced that it would offer health care benefits to the domestic partners of its employees as early as next year. The move makes the company, with more than 108,000 employees and revenues of 31.5 billion, one of the largest ever to extend such benefits to its gay workers. Pay attention to when they effect this policy, aaaaaand you know who to buy your computer stuff from!

**Defeat Cosby’s mad attacks - Decline to Sign**



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HIV/AIDS prevention info, peer support, education and  
general information.

**WOMAN by Audre Lorde**

*I dream of a place between your breasts  
to build my house like a haven  
where I plant crops  
in your body  
an endless harvest  
where the commonest rock  
is moonstone and ebony opal  
giving milk to all of my hungers  
and your light comes down upon me  
like a nurturing rain.*

-From the Black Unicorn (1978)

Praise for us all being out with ourselves and each other, to  
create this community this weekend!


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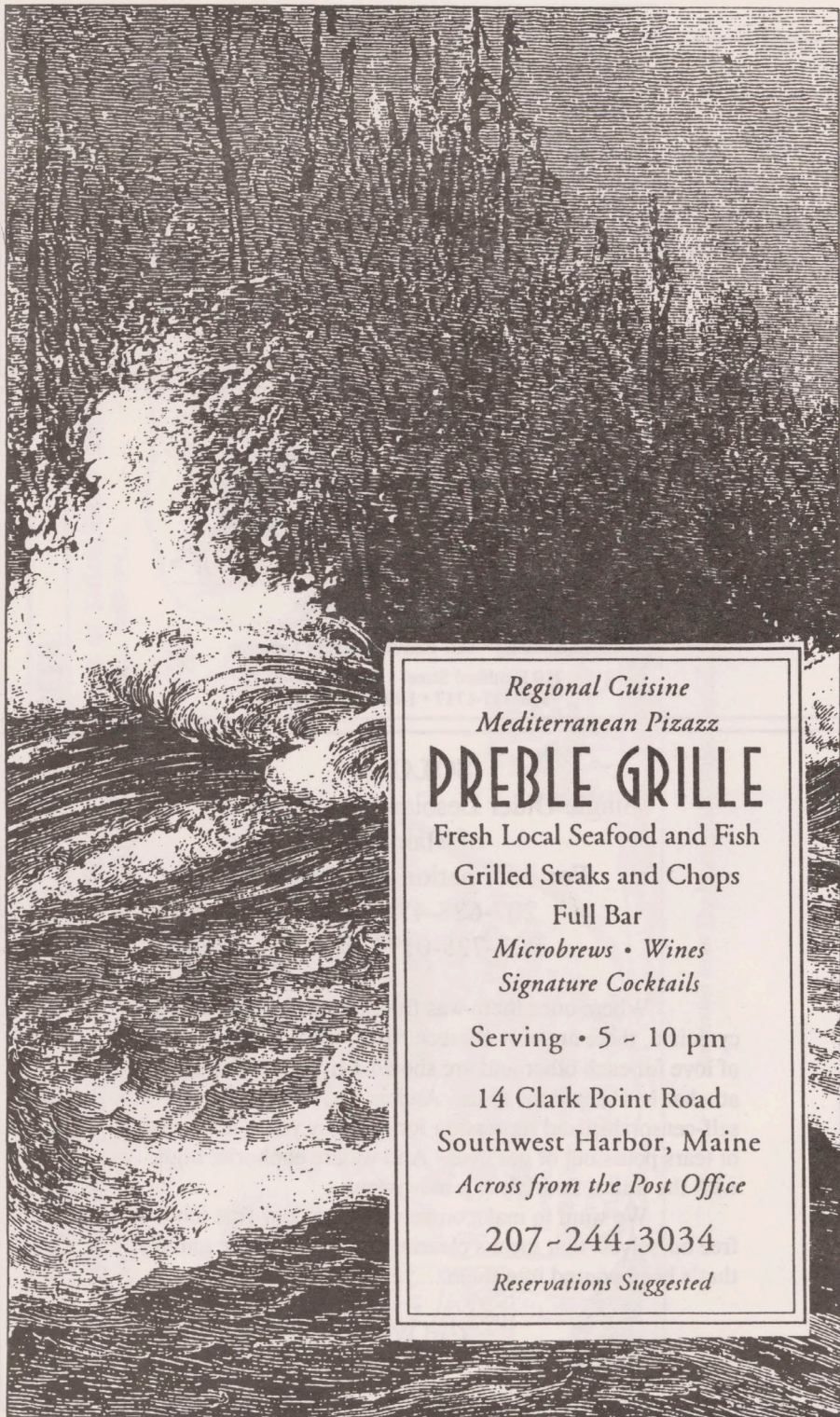
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Where once there was frustration, alienation and cynicism, there are new characteristics among us. We are full of love for each other and are showing it; we are full of anger at what has been done to us. And as we recall all the self-censorship and repression for so many years, a reservoir of tears pours out of our eyes. And we are euphoric, high, with the initial flourish of a movement....

We want to make ourselves clear: our first job is to free ourselves; that means clearing our heads of the garbage that's been poured into them....

Carl Wittman,  
Excerpt from *A Gay Manifesto*



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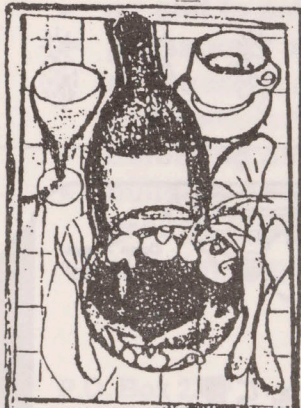
## EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

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William James



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*Special Thanks!* We want to extend a very special Thank You to those whose contributions brought the Lesbian AIDS project to us: Marge, Mary R., Ruth, Mary H., Julie H., Julie B., Betts, Cass, Chandra and Beth, Sarah and Nicolette, Ron King, Sue G., Mitzi, Bobbi Lynn, Sue, Patti, Noreen, Shannon Hughes, Lin Gould and Rosemarie Hughes, Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition, Tri-County Health Services, AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn, Down East AIDS Network, and Mary H. & Ya Gotta Love It Videos!. To others who gave after this was typeset - You know who you are, and we could not have done it without you! Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

Another *Special Thank You* to the Women at **Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center**. Thank You for donating your time and effort in bringing a Cancer Screening Clinic to the Symposium Weekend and Thank You for donating money to help bring the Lesbian AIDS Project to the weekend as well.

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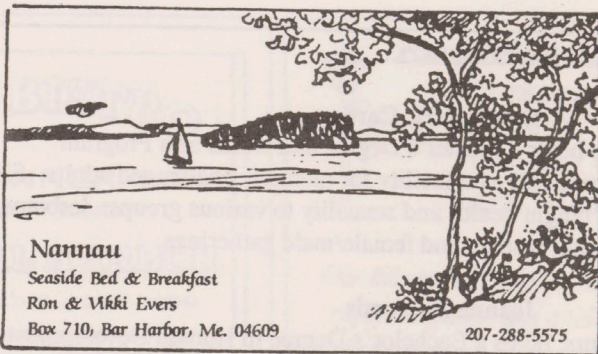
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## ▽ Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance ▽

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- advocacy for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people
- defeating anti-gay referenda
- building coalitions with other gay and non-gay groups fighting for social change
- electing gay and gay-friendly candidates



P.O. Box 232  
 Hallowell, ME 04347

142 High Street, #622  
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## **About the Presenters.....**

### **Deborah H. Carney**

Deb holds a Master's Degree and works as a Program Coordinator at a facility for mentally challenged adults. She has taught health and sexuality to various groups: lesbians, straight women and female/male gatherings.

### **Jeanne A. Curtis**

Jeanne holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and is currently the Case Manager at the Eastern Maine AIDS Network. Jeanne has facilitated a number of groups: gay/lesbian youth, people living with HIV/AIDS and lesbians.

Deb & Jeanne live together in Searsport with Radcliffe and Jebidiah, having been partners for close to seven years.

### **Wendy Chapkis**

Wendy is the author of Beauty Secrets: Women and the Politics of Appearance, and a professor of Women's Studies at USM. After delivering a Keynote speech for the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center and meeting Ruth Lockhart several years ago, she realized there were wonderful women in Maine, and applied for the USM job.

### **Mary Lou Dietrich**

Considers deconstructing gender part of the process of waking up from the story of her life. She lives in the woods.

### **Judy Edgerly**

Judy is a member of the Symposium Forever Board of Directors. She was the first woman in New England Telephone's "Special Services" (previously a male bastion) so everyone assumed she was a lesbian - even before she knew it herself!

### **Lin Gould**

In her spare time from working on Symposium XXII, Lin teaches at Mt Desert Island High School. She is also a member of the Symposium Forever Board of Directors. The MDIHS Committee recently added "Sexual Orientation" to the list of protected categories (race, sex, religion etc)! Her students, meanwhile, are much more interested in the fact that she and her partner live with seven dogs.

## THE BISTRO

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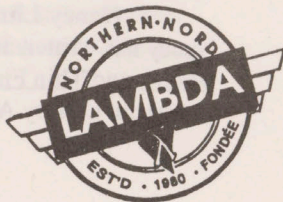
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## A Queer Quiz

- Q.** Where is Maine's first and only community center for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people and our friends?  
**A.** *In Caribou! The Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine!*
- 
- Q.** What is Maine's only statewide phone for support, education & information?  
**A.** *The Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine established in Caribou in 1982!*
- 
- Q.** Where is Maine's only lending library of about 800 queer-subject titles?  
**A.** *In Caribou! Bibliothèque Lambda is at the Community Center, 398 Main Street!*
- 
- Q.** What is Maine's oldest community-based group that's accomplished all of this?  
**A.** *Northern Lambda Nord, proudly serving Aroostook County & neighbouring New Brunswick since January, 1980*

**Northern Lambda Nord, Inc.**  
PO Box 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990  
207.498-2088 or 800.496-2088 M-V-F 7-9pm



### **Rosemarie Hughes**

Rosemarie had her first real conversation with Lin Gould as a result of Lin's having insulted her on her "parenting techniques"! They eventually got together, against all odds. Lin - having become completely impressed with the outcome of R.'s "parenting techniques" *insisted* she do this workshop! After having run her own small business for eight years, she is currently an Onward student at the University of Maine at Orono.

Lin and Rosemarie have lived together on Mount Desert Island with Shannon, seven dogs and two parrots for three years.

### **Doug Kimmel**

Doug is a psychologist, teaches at City College NY, and has been on the committee of Gay & Lesbian Concerns of the American Psychological Association. He has written books including some on Gay & Lesbian issues, and summers in Hancock, Maine.

### **Rita Kissen**

Rita is an associate professor in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Southern Maine. She is a founding member and past president of the Portland, Maine chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG). She lives on Peaks Island, Maine with her husband, Norman Rasulis.

### **Mark Letizia and Ernie Guimond**

Mark & Ernie had been together for four months when they attended a past Symposium workshop on Long Term Relationships - feeling then that four months *was* Long Term! Well, ten years has passed and they are still crazy about each other and are an inspiration to all of us lucky enough to share their smiles! Mark is a member of the Symposium XXII Committee and Ernie is a High School Teacher.

### **Nancy Little**

Nancy has written and published two books, The Grass Widow and Thin Fire. The latter has been nominated for an American Library Association Award.

### **Mitzi Lichtman**

Mitzi was not born in Maine and does not plan to die here, but preferably in a Florida lesbian retirement community, in the arms of a beloved. She wishes for her remains to be scattered in the seal pool at the Bronx Zoo. Like the seal, she has always had a penchant for entertaining in a whimsical spiritual fashion. She has studied with a student of LeCoq and dabbled in other clowning and improvisational comedy opportunities over the years. While not yet fully skilled in anything, she can teach you a few things to get you started in whichever direction you are drawn to. She truly does prefer this type of work to political organizing and thanks the Symposium crew for remembering to ask.

### **Holly Lynn Ostrom**

Holly is a male-to-female transsexual. She is a recovering alcoholic and has survived a serious suicide attempt. Presently, Holly is a Junior at the University of Southern Maine working towards a B.A. in Social and Behavioral Science. She plans to go into substance abuse counseling for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals.

### **Kathleen E. Perkins**

Kate is a Maine native and resident of Kennebunk. In 1994 she co-designed and conducted the first statewide HIV needs assessment in Maine for the Maine Community AIDS Partnership and chaired the Governor's HIV Advisory Committee from July 1995 through June 1996. In 1996 she presented a poster at the International AIDS Conference in Vancouver which highlighted parallels between perception (reported by people living with HIV in Maine in 1994) of bias against the g/l/b/t communities and the Yes on 1 voting patterns. Kate became involved in HIV in San Francisco in 1985, went to work for three years at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, DC, and returned to Maine in 1993.

### **Peter Reese**

Peter is a Psychologist interested in sexual orientation issues. He worked tirelessly as the co-chair of the Hancock County Maine Won't Discriminate group.

# Butch & FEMME

© 1986 BY ALISON BECHDEL

CURIOUS LITTLE TERMS, AREN'T THEY? SOME WOMEN ARE DISDAINFUL OF THEM.



OOH, YUCK. ROLE-PLAYING! WE'RE ABOVE ALL THAT!

SOME WOMEN HAVE MADE THEM INTO A SCIENCE.

NO, NO... JANET IS DEFINITELY YOUR TYPICAL BUTCHY FEMME.



FACE IT. NO MATTER HOW POLITICALLY CORRECT YOU ARE, THERE ARE ALL THESE ROLES LURKING ABOUT, JUST WAITING TO ENSNARE THE UNSUSPECTING VICTIM.



IT'S CALLED A SKIRT I FIND IT COMFORTABLE. OKAY?



UGH... COULD YOU TRY THIS?

WHY SURE, DARLING.

## Craig Sheerin

Craig counts as his most worthy kudos being named an honorary lesbian by people in a position to bestow such honors (and who, he hopes, weren't just kidding around), and is a graduate student living in Old Town, Maine.

## Jean Vermette

Jean is a male-to-female transsexual and Director of the Maine Gender Resource & Support Service.

## Shawn Webber

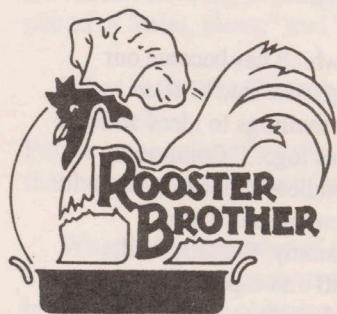
Shawn works with Man To Man and the Eastern Maine AIDS Network.

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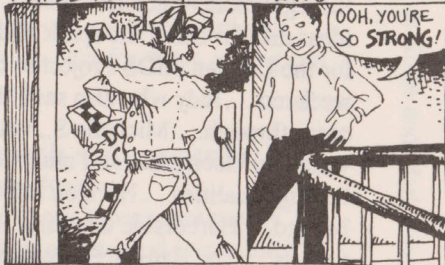
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MAYBE YOU SORT OF GET INTO THEM.



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## Thank You's!!!

An event of this magnitude requires plenty of community spirit and "roll your sleeves up" work. We have been lucky to have had no end to the Friends who have helped us with both! And they are (in no special order except that in which we could remember and reconstruct!):

The DownEast AIDS Network, which has become our home away from home .....Ron King, who said "I'll do Anything" and **meant it**, from bulk mailings to ideas and free labor!.....Catherine for her marvelous logo.....Community Pride Reporter and the Gaynet for endless support.....Ernie for laughter, the poster project, proofreading skills and incredible hugs.....Ander, Marla, Tammy, Russell, Paul, Millard, Brenda, Ted, the COA staff and especially the housekeeping staff who worked triple time to make it possible for us to move in on Saturday.....Mary H. and the extra volunteers she hustled, ah, I mean 'recruited' to help housekeeping in this endeavor.....Don and Stacey who were there at the beginning and pitched in as they could .....Nancy Button, The Bistro of Seal Harbor, Wendy Chapkis and others who contributed to our Scholarship Fund Raffle.....Heidi for her work on ad sizes, help with the templates and the loan of the light table (a goddess send!).....Mary H. again for many ideas and for being the spark and drive that made it possible for the Lesbian AIDS Project to be a part of the weekend.....Judy who also said "I'll do anything" and always came through.....Michelle S., without whom this Symposium would be incomplete and much less decorative (!) and for her healing qualities.....Horizon Printing who went above & beyond.....Harborside Graphics for great service and quality t-shirts.....The Bangor Peace and Justice Center, WERU and the Lavender Chronicle for spreading the word.....Jan and Pg for never looking bored when, yet again, all we could talk about was one part of the plans or another.....Mary Hughes who offered endless moral support and lots of trips with goodies and healthy food when we forgot to eat.....Shannon for putting up with an onslaught of business calls to our home and a kitchen that was turned into an office.....And we thank each other of the Symposium XXII Local Committee "The whole has become greater than the sum of the parts." Hope we didn't miss anyone.

### **What are "Code Words"?**

Code words are a discreet way of stating "she's a lesbian" or "he's gay" without actually saying it. While some straight people may be aware of the implication of terms such as "a friend of Dorothy's," "musical" and "Lebanese," few know the hidden meaning of phrases like "Looks like rain," "A half pound of Swiss, please" and "I'd like a receipt."

### **What is the significance of the color purple in gay culture?**

Purple is the color of royalty, supporting the popular theory that homosexuals descend from a long line of nobility.

### **What is the meaning of the rainbow flag?**

The rainbow flag represents the concept that gay, lesbian and bi communities are composed of people from all backgrounds and experiences. Now if we could all work as closely together as the stripes in the flag, we'd really get somewhere.....

### **What is "outing"?**

"Outing" is when you promote gay pride and visibility by publicly announcing that a famous person (who is earnestly hiding his or her sexual orientation) is queer, thus producing an angry, ashamed and fearful role model for gay youth everywhere. Still, when the target is a massively anti-gay senator who's been cruising boys in bars for years, outing can be irresistibly satisfying.

### **Why do some lesbians, bisexuals and gay men use the word "queer" to describe themselves?**

Because it's a whole lot simpler to say "queer community" than "lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgendered community." We're activists and we don't have time to be messing around with long, awkward terminology.

### **Are lesbians and gays born that way?**

No, we are conceived that way. Consider it an act of divine intervention.

### **Is being homosexual natural?**

Not only that, but for lesbians it's often organic.

Symposium XXII is brought to you by members of the Gay, Lesbian,  
Bi and Transgender Community of Hancock County.

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