

more than 25 g/l/b alumni who returned for the symposium were joined by College President John McCardell. After the break, six Middlebury alumni, graduates ranging from the class of 1966 through 1994, presented their academic works on topics ranging from Shakespeare to Lesbian parenting in Vermont; changes in sodomy statutes to a discussion of gay male pornography; how another small liberal arts college dealt with queer issues to gay men - erotic conflict and self-discovery.

The Keynote speaker for the day was Marshal Forstein, Middlebury '71, who spoke on normal homosexual development in a homophobic society. Forstein is a teacher of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School as well as director of HIV Mental Health Services at the Cambridge (Mass.) Hospital. For a period in the 1970's, before medical school, he even taught English at Middlebury Union High School. He has published on the psychological effects of HIV and AIDS and on gay parenting. His address stressed that gay rights are about taking back power which we have been taught we do not have a right to possess - not about taking away someone else's power. He also spoke about society's inability to tolerate difference or to even discuss sex or death. He stressed his concern for gay youth, finding a way to give them hope and to teach our gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth that even in our AIDS-phobic world they had a right to live their lives - lives full of happy and fulfilling sexual experiences.

Rose Troche, director of the feature film *Go Fish*, joined alumni, students, faculty, and staff for dinner. The film, which was shown twice later that evening, is a romantic comedy about young, post ACT-UP dykes. Troche discussed her film, this year's big hit at the Sundance Film Festival, between showings. Many in attendance agreed that *Go Fish* is "the lesbian film we've all been waiting for".

On Saturday, the Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VCLGR) held its 2nd Annual Conference: A Queer Town Meeting on campus at the invitation of College officials. It was attended by more than 500 queer-folk and changed the climate of Middlebury for at least one day. Same-sex couples walked hand-in-hand, men in drag performed during a lunchtime fashion show, and lesbian mothers pushed their children in strollers to workshops all over campus! It truly wasn't Kansas anymore. That fact played out as the momentum continued into the evening with *Beyond the Closet*, a Middlebury College student production of gay and lesbian scenes. The day was topped by a dance sponsored by the College's student GLB Alliance. DJ Dina Saccucci spun tunes for Club Generation X - including some from Madonna, Barry Manilow, and the Village People.

Ongoing throughout the Festival was an exhibit in the lobby of Starr Library, "Que(e)rying Middlebury: In and Out of the Closet", which celebrated little known gay history at the College - faculty, staff,

alumni, and even guest speakers. Middlebury librarians also pulled together a bibliographical listing of the library's resources on Gay and Lesbian Studies.

Sunday, the Rainbow Festival concluded with a morning service in Mead Chapel. Guest speaker Kim Crawford Harvie, Middlebury '79, spoke on "Yes, you can!" Crawford Harvie, an out lesbian, is senior minister at the Arlington Street Unitarian Universalist Church in Boston where the congregation has doubled in size since she assumed the pulpit. She received a Middlebury Alumni Achievement Award and a First Decade Award from Harvard Divinity School in 1992. Her pink rhinestone triangle shown brightly in the sunlight as she spoke. Following the service students, staff, faculty, alumni, and guests gathered for brunch. There were speeches, lots of laughs, a few tears, and many hugs before the Rainbow Festival formally came to an end.

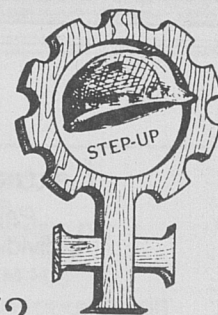
But good things do not always just end. As Dorothy did when she crash-landed in Oz, Middlebury College opened its doors to the technicolor reality of gay, lesbian, and bisexual lives during its week-long Rainbow Festival. T-shirts, designed especially for the Festival were colorfully emblazoned with the slogan: "The beauty of geometry appears when its members come together in the same space and yet remain discernible - the triangle rests there too".

While as an alum and also an employee of the College who recognizes that the world's not perfect, after such an empowering week I conclude that there really is "no place like home!" - being recognized as a special part of what makes that home complete and knowing that I belong there too! ▼

STEP UP for Women trades training program is opening a new site in Rutland!

We're looking for:

- Feminist staff and resource people, including trades class instructors
- Employers and others who want to be involved in establishing another successful STEP UP Program (by having a "shadow" on the job for a day, hiring graduates, etc.)
- Donations of office equipment and supplies
- Women interested in pursuing trades careers



For more info call:

1-800-639-1472

Northern New England Trades Women

Dr. Shoshanna S. Shelley

LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

INDIVIDUAL, COUPLE AND GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY

INSURANCE ACCEPTED

RR1 BOX 176 • FULLER HILL ROAD
WARREN, VERMONT 05674
TELEPHONE (802) 496-4964