

sexuality and by tracing for the workshop participants the role played by our brothers and sisters from the times of the Old Testament through the ancient Greeks and Romans, through the Middle Ages and up to the Germany of the turn of the century. I told them about Hitler's death camps and about the Native American berdache traditions.

I had to skip. I had to rush and I was unable, as I often said, to do the subject justice. Despite the shortage of time, I believe I was able to give a feel for the history and perhaps to whet the appetites of a few people to read more. I ended by distributing a four page bibliography with marks next to recommended books, and with a selected additional look at "Before Stonewall."

Immediately following the 90 minute History Workshop, I moved aside the VCR and TV, and set out namecards on a long table for the eight panelists involved in the discussion. About a dozen people had attended the History Workshop. This number doubled for the discussion of Gay and Lesbian Issues in ABE. Many people who had not registered dropped by to participate or just to listen. I only wish I had arranged to tape it. It was, in a word, impressive!

After introducing all seven of us as gay, I offered each panelist the opportunity to speak. Each person did so eloquently, and there followed a wonderful dialogue between the panelists and the audience — (I would guess to have been half gay.) There were many personal stories told. People who spoke included a bisexual and her search for an identity, and a non-gay woman who had gay parents and had been raised in a gay society and her search for her identity as a straight woman. One ABE teacher, who had come out to me in great fear and secrecy last year, chose this opportunity to come out publicly!

I had to do very little as moderator to keep things moving. I was sorry to stop when the time came for lunch. All of the panelists stayed for lunch and I was glad to see the dialogue continuing all over the dining room. I might be biased, but I feel that these workshops and the openly gay presence at this Conference for the very first time helped everyone who attended to grow a little, to understand a little, to think a little more about bigotry and prejudice... and perhaps to accept a little more the great gift that we gay and lesbian people are to society as a whole. I feel that all who participated are now better able to accept our sense of service to others, our generosity of spirit, our dedication to our work, our artistic abilities, and our zest for life. ▼

# Plans for Pride Day 1993

**Q. What's better than Boston??  
Newer than New York??  
More fun than San Francisco??**

**A. Vermont's 1993 Lesbian, Gay  
and Bisexual Pride Day!!**

Mark your calendars now for Saturday June 26th ... and plan to be in Burlington for the celebration.

And while you've got your calendars out write down Saturday February 13th. That's the date of our Valentine Sock Hop. Its a fundraiser for 1993 Pride day and will be held in Contois Auditorium in Burlington at 8 pm.

If you want to get involved in the fun and planning for Pride Day or any of our outrageous fundraisers...we want to hear from you.

**General Info:**

Leah 864-6764, Lucy 862-8236

**Outreach/Statewide Organizing:**

Susan 728-4638, Pat 889-3524

**Publicity:** Rachael 862-4467

**Sock Hop:** Peggy 862-9015

Bring your marching band instrument out of the closet for 1993 Gay Pride.

Contact Peter at 878-1123 to get involved.

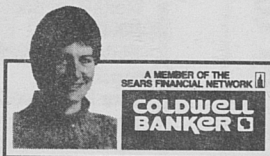
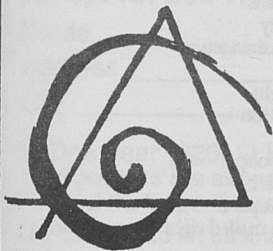
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