

Campus Events

Jonathan D. Katz: Art, Eros and the Sixties

Owen 302
Wednesday,
7 p.m.

Apple Day Celebrations

Reed Plaza
Friday,
12 p.m.

Comedian Sheng Wang

Highsmith
Friday,
9 p.m.

Jerusalem Women Speak: "Three Women, Three Shared Faiths, One Shared Vision"

Oct. 14,
7 p.m.

Snakes Alive! Herpetologist Tom Kessenich

Oct. 17
2-4 p.m.

For more campus
activities, visit:

www.unca.edu/barker/

Queer rights activist speaks in Owen Hall

By Noor Al-Sibai
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"Gay" and "queer" – what's the difference?

Jonathan D. Katz, a queer rights activist and founding member of the Harvey Milk Institute in San Francisco, said the two words represent very different mentalities.

"I'm very much interested in being a part of a national conversation about sexuality," Katz said.

The gay/queer dichotomy is the main subject of Katz's appearance at UNC Asheville, tonight at 7 p.m. in Owen Hall, room 302.

The word "gay" comes from the 1960s gay rights movement and establishes homosexuality as a minority, while queerness is a refusal to classify people according to their sexuality, Katz said.

"To be queer is to reject the idea that the natural and normal course of human eroticism is one direction only," Katz said.

Katz cites Herbert Marcuse, a radical 1960s philosopher, as one of his main influences.

"Queer rights must be defined as the right not to have to think about your sexuality, not to be categorized, not to have to defend, not to have to stop a second before grabbing the hand of the person you love in public and wonder whether it is dangerous to do so," Katz said.

Marcuse advocates Eros, a philosophy centered on sensual pleasures, and argues the Freudian theory that all conflicts stem from repression of pleasure-seeking instincts.

Katz, who hasn't been to Asheville since he was a child, is visiting UNCA as a final stop in the United States before going to London to teach at the Cortauld Institute.

Katz will also discuss what he refers to as the polar or binary construction of



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Katz
Activist Jonathan Katz will address queer rights issues in Owen Hall room 302 tonight at 7 p.m.

sexuality—gay on one side, straight on the other.

Katz chose academia as an outlet for his activism. Sitting in a jail cell in San Francisco, he was told that "any idiot can end up in jail," but his skills as an academic could not be passed up, according to Katz.

Katz began to work as a queer activist academic, focusing his energy on educating about gay and queer studies, including the study of sexuality itself.

"The most important part of educating about queerness is the re-teaching of the 'social script' that creates and perpetuates the gay/straight spectrum," Katz said.

Katz was the founding director of the Larry Kramer Initiative for Lesbian and Gay Studies at Yale University, and founding chair of the nation's only gay

studies department at the City College of San Francisco.

"What I'm hoping we can ultimately give young people is a social script that says 'love somebody, just somebody,'" Katz said.

He said modern gay activism has been very successful in many respects, but there are still obstacles.

"The biggest problem facing the current gay rights movement is a sense that the big battles have been fought, as well as perceived apathy on the part of those who don't identify with the gay rights cause," Katz said.

Katz also has one criticism of the current movement.

"This culture has changed fast, but it's changed unevenly. Cities, coastal areas, certain regions are fully 50 years ahead, but other parts of the country get left behind."

Although multiple opinions on gay rights' shortcomings and advancements are voiced heavily throughout the country, most Americans are undecided when it comes to their views on homosexuality, he said.

"We've not been very good at reaching those folks," Katz said. "Gay marriage is a hot-button issue that is viewed by many to be the main gay rights cause. But it is not the 'be all and end all.' It's just one more discriminatory category."

Those other parts of the country include the South, and lower socioeconomic communities. While activists accomplished much in the last 40 years, Katz said the enlightened culture in cities and universities doesn't exist outside of those centers.

"The goal of queer rights activists is to take the message out of the academy and into the streets," Katz said. "We should not judge people by the gender of the individual they love, but by their capacity to love in the first place."

New *Zombieland* movie delivers scares and laughs

By Katherine Lancaster
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The new horror-comedy *Zombieland* takes place in present-day America, but it's not the America we're used to seeing.

Movie Review

Zombies have taken over the country, inhabiting every city and state.

Jesse Eisenberg (*Adventureland*) plays Columbus, a geek who has many phobias, including coulrophobia, the fear of clowns. Columbus has set rules for surviving in a world full of zombies, from not using public bathrooms to always wearing a seatbelt.

Along the way, Columbus meets Tallahassee (Woody Harrelson), a zombie killer whose one mission in life is to find a Twinkie, and sisters Wichita and Little Rock.

At first, the characters prefer to do their own thing, but they quickly realize they must rely on each other to survive.

At the beginning of the film, Fleischer creatively demonstrates and explains Columbus' many rules. When you first hear his voice, Columbus explains the top four rules he lives by, and with each rule, the number and rule are clearly displayed in bold, capitalized type at one corner of the screen.

Fleischer maintains this idea throughout the movie. When each rule is repeated or if the audience is introduced to a new rule, it

is clearly displayed on the screen.

Though the film was about surviving zombie invasion, the zombies weren't the main focus of the movie.

The relationship of the four characters seemed to drive the film from beginning to end.

The sister team initially does not trust Columbus and Tallahassee, but as they slowly let their guards down and let them in, they discover humans have one thing that zombies will never have: compassion.

The film is almost 1 hour and 30 minutes long, and even though the plot isn't a strong point of the film, comedic timing from main actors and a Bill Murray cameo make up for the film's weaknesses. Hilarious dialogue and gory fun make *Zombieland* an escape from the everyday world.