

LAMBDA

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The Carolina Gay & Lesbian Association Newsletter

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Anti-CGLA Legislation Introduced

A new bill introduced by Stephen Arnold (R-Guilford) would compel the UNC Board of Governors to "adopt rules that no state funds and no student fees are used, whether directly or indirectly, to permit or promote any gay and lesbian association or any other community or campus organization that advocates immoral, illegal or criminal behavior" at any UNC-system school. This legislation would also prohibit any organization so defined from using campus buildings and facilities. The ban on use of state funds and campus buildings and facilities would make this measure much more far-reaching than previous proposals to eliminate use of student fees to fund gay and lesbian associations. The bill is directed primarily at the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association and NC State's Lesbian and Gay Student Union (as the only gay and lesbian groups which receive student fees) but would also affect groups at UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Greensboro which assemble in campus buildings.

There is some precedent for this type of legislation. The Speaker Ban of 1963 sought to refuse free speech on campus to any Communist or perceived Communist. When the Speaker Ban threatened UNC's accreditation, the law was hastily revoked. Another past case is Gay and Lesbian Student Association v. GONE. In this case, the University of Arkansas sought to defund the Gay and Lesbian Association on that campus. The Circuit Appeals Court ruled that the state has no obligation to provide money for campus organizations, but that it can not selectively defund a group because of the content of its speech.

The 1989-90 budget for CGLA is \$4,281, of which \$2,131 was allocated by Student Congress. The money will support LAMBDA (\$2,080), Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week (\$1010, including \$750 in speakers' fees and \$260 for publicity and film rental), outreach programs (\$50) and administrative

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Varied Events at Awareness Week

From April 9 to April 15, CGLA held its annual Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week. Although I missed a couple of the events--notably Deidre McCalla's concert that closed the week--I enjoyed the sessions I attended and found them informative. Here's my report:

Rap Session With Black Lesbians and Gay Men

The first educational event of Awareness Week was a rap session with black lesbians and gay men, aimed at providing insight into the particular problems faced by this portion of our community. The discussion was led by Mandy Carter, a CGLA heroine. We concluded that homosexuality is a special stigma in the Black community because of the pervasive presence of conservative Christian churches. This religious bias is reflected in most of the problems faced by black lesbians and gay men; a particular example is AIDS.

The stigma associated with AIDS and people living with AIDS is especially strong in the Black community. For this reason, AIDS information was hard to find in Black community centers for many years. The fact that AIDS is disproportionately prevalent in the Black community makes this lack of AIDS education particularly tragic.

Rap Session With Bisexuals

L.D. Newman, who is preparing a program for RAs on homosexuality and diversity, led our program on bisexuality. She was assisted by a CGLA member who is a self-identified bisexual. This student, Leah (not her real name), felt that she was not accepted by either the gay or straight community. Homophobia prevents her acceptance in the straight community, and lesbians and gay men say that she just can't deal with her

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