

Why the Lambda?

The origins of the Greek letter *lambda's* use as a symbol for the gay community are a bit unclear. We know for certain that *lambda* was adopted by the New York Gay Activists Alliance in 1970 to represent the growing gay liberation movement. Four years later, the *lambda* gained international popularity when the International Gay Rights Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland adopted it to symbolize their cause. According to the "Flags of the World" website, varying theories exist as to why *lambda*, specifically, became the chosen symbol. Some suggest that because *lambda* is the Greek version of our letter "L", it can stand for "liberation"; some point out that in physics *lambda* symbolizes both energy and wavelength, so it characterizes the

growing energy of the gay rights movement, or the fact that the GLBT community is on a "different wavelength" from the rest of the world. Perhaps the most amusing suggestion for *lambda's* origins is presented in the book "Out for Good;" the book claims that a graphic designer thought that the *lambda* looked like a person kicking through a door, and thought that image was a fit metaphor for the struggle of the entire gay community to come out of the closet.

Now, the real question: why our magazine, LAMBDA?

That question's a little bit easier to answer. In the words of two of our editors:

"UNC's queer community is in dire need of an outlet for expression. We need to be able to express

ourselves so that other people can understand who we really are and how the world around us affects us." — Anonymous

"The reason that we decided to bring back LAMBDA after two years of non-circulation is because it is a good outlet for queer students. Also, LAMBDA can help to unite GLBT and allies in order to create a stronger community." — Jesse Davidson

We couldn't think of a better way to celebrate the first National Coming Out Day of the new millennium than by bringing back UNC's only GLBTA magazine. So whether you're in, out, in-between or allied, we present you today with our new and improved LAMBDA.

It's good to be out—and it's good to be back.

Campus



Yeah, we do lots of service.

But did you know we also...



- Plan Race Relations Week and Human Rights Week?
 - Raise awareness about the criminal-justice system?
 - Promote healthy body images for women, and lots more!
- ...in addition to providing the physical resources that other campus groups, like LAMBDA, need to make their voice heard.

Interested in learning more? Stop by the Campus Y anytime.

We've got our hands full. Why aren't you here?