



# LGBTIQ Faces

Meet and talk politics with sophomore Alex Ferrando, one of the new co-chairpersons of UNC's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender - Straight Alliance



Photo by Douglas Dukeman

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LAMBDA editors decided that for the second LGBTIQ Faces, it would be exciting to introduce the University community to one of the newly elected co-chairpersons of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender - Straight Alliance on campus. Alex Ferrando has only been at the University for just under two years, but in that time he has managed to share his quirky sense of style, addictive smile, witty humor and now his impressive leadership skills with a vast number of students, faculty, staff and administrators alike. Ferrando has been everything from an organizer of this year's highly-acclaimed drag show, "Curious," to a LGBTQ Office volunteer and Safe Zone speaker. He sat down with me for a more extensive look at himself and his hopes for the GLBT-SA.

LAMBDA: So tell our readers about Alessandro Emilio Ferrando...

AF: Born April 26, 1984 in Miami, Flor-

ida, I've always just been called Alex by anyone who knows me. I moved to Savannah, Georgia at the age of five and still reside there now. I'm a sophomore here at UNC-Chapel Hill, majoring in International Studies with a concentration in Latin America. I've been involved with GLBT-SA ever since I arrived on campus and have been recently elected as one of next year's co-chairpersons. Many more people may actually know me from my performances with Kamikazi, a hip-hop dance group here. I guarantee if you've ever seen a random white boy dancing around campus, it was probably me.

LAMBDA: Is that the only wild and crazy thing about yourself?

AF: Wow, something else wild and crazy, huh? How about attending a private all-male Catholic military high school only to turn around and dress in drag to perform in this year's GLBT-SA drag show, "Curious." I think that's about as wild and crazy as it gets with me.

LAMBDA: As a LGBTIQ-identified student, how do you feel about the UNC campus - students, professors, administrators, etc.?

AF: Originally, I was excited about campus and its accompanying climate. During my first year here, the LGBTQ Office was set to open, and there was a lingering anticipation about the sexuality studies minor. The University administration seemed committed to implementing the provisions laid out by the Provost Report published in 2002 about the LGBTQ campus climate. Unfortunately, I believe the campus may have taken a few steps back this year. Between the University's poor handling of the homophobic classroom incident earlier this semester and their apparent lack of desire to publicize the anti-harassment policy protecting sexual minorities on campus, some issues certainly need to be addressed before I can once again feel optimistic about the University's direction on this matter.