



Photo by Douglas Dukeman



LAMBDA: GLBT-SA has gone through some changes in the past year. As one of its newly elected co-chairpersons for 2004 - 2005, can you explain a bit about the GLBT-SA and how it functions?

AF: GLBT-SA certainly has gone through quite a makeover this year, but I think I can synthesize a brief explanation of how things will run next year. Basically, GLBT-SA will simply serve as the umbrella organization attempting to foster a more inclusive LGBTIQ campus community and work with other organizations in helping bring awareness to LGBTIQ issues. Underneath the GLBT-SA, we will have three autonomous sub-organizations dealing with more specific issues. LAMBDA is our publication branch and will continue to promote visibility and act as the sole LGBTIQ voice among campus publications. The Committee for a Queerer Carolina will be our more radical activist branch of the group. They will be involved with direct action campaigns on campus and will also tackle progressive issues in addition to specifically LGBTIQ ones. The Unity Conference will also continue to work under the GLBT-SA as an annual gathering of the Southeast region, aiming to discuss the intersections of gender and sexuality with other identities, strategies for effective grassroots organizing and work that other LGBTQ activists are doing in the Southeast.

LAMBDA: How do you envision the organization's role on campus next year?

AF: I definitely envision the organization remaining primarily as a force promoting visibility of LGBTIQ issues on campus and working to improve the campus climate. In our visibility work next year, I

believe the organization needs to step up and make a concerted effort to educate more about marginalized identities in the group (Bs and Ts) rather than remaining purely gay- and lesbian-focused. In my opinion, the organization must also look into devising a plan to include more straight allies in the group. We should make it clear how much we love our allies because we *really* do!

LAMBDA: There has been some criticism of the GLBT-SA in the past as not being able to adequately involve the entire LGBTIQ community on campus. How do you feel about these criticisms and what do you think can be done to welcome more people into the GLBT-SA?

AF: I was on GLBT-SA board this past year, and I can definitely see how LGBTIQ community members could have had legitimate complaints about the organization's exclusive set-up back in the fall. Fortunately, I believe we have responded to these grievances and managed to fix the root of those problems this past semester. As long as I have been here, I have never seen a greater amount of opportunity for regular general body members to become as heavily involved with the organization and make an impact. Case in point, the wonderful Celebration Week schedule this semester was created

almost entirely by general body members. What we need to work on as a group is extinguishing the idea that GLBT-SA is a clique and that the same individuals are the only ones participating semester after semester. This organization is for all LGBTIQ students on campus and I believe the group as a whole has learned how valuable our general body members can be. I promise if you have a fabulous idea you want to see come to fruition, need to vent about a current LGBTIQ issue in the press or simply want to sit down and mingle with other LGBTIQ individuals and straight allies, the GLBT-SA will be the place you want to be next semester.

LAMBDA: Any plans to be a career activist after college?

AF: Hmmmm. Well, I have given it some thought. One of my career plans right now is actually going to law school and becoming a lawyer where I could potentially see myself training to continue the fight for LGBTIQ rights. I think I would absolutely love that, but you never know what might happen. No matter where I go though, I guarantee I'll continue working for LGBTIQ rights, be it as small as simply creating visibility in my workplace or as large as fighting against internal policies established by my employer to discriminate based on sexual orientation. ☒

*Co-Editor in Chief and senior Douglas Dukeman, a religious studies and philosophy double major from Norton, Ohio, can be contacted at [lambda@unc.edu](mailto:lambda@unc.edu).*