



LGBTIQ Faces

The UNC LGBTIQ community welcomes Graduate Assistant for the Program of Sexuality Studies, Anthony Reid, with open arms

By Win Chesson

This fall the UNC LGBTIQ community brought a new smile to the mix – Anthony Reid, a graduate student in the UNC School of Social Work. As the Sexuality Studies Graduate Assistant Intern, Reid will work with the LGBTQ Advisory Board to implement this new program of study. A native of Winston-Salem, Reid attended UNC from 1992-1996 as an undergraduate majoring in Sociology. He was active with Carolina Fever, the Carolina Athletic Association, Campus Y, the Black Student Movement and the University's main LGBTIQ organization at the time, B-GLAD. Upon graduation, he worked for five years at the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics and then the N.C. School of the Arts as a Residential Counselor.

LAMBDA: How does it feel to be back at UNC after eight years?

ANTHONY REID: I am just really excited in general to be back. The social work program here is one of the highest in the country. It's kind of crazy. I think that a few years ago we slipped to national ranking of sixth, and people started to freak out. The faculty is pretty stellar, though some do too much research and I wish they would share more of their knowledge.

LAMBDA: Since you've graduated, you've definitely had some experience working with young adults. What have your interactions taught you that you can apply to your work here?

AR: Most of my counseling at NCSSM and NSSA was with adolescents, who are all dealing with things that are so similar to coming out. Everyone is trying to find confidence. Working with adolescents has sharpened my skills. As a counselor, you learn that it is most effective to allow a person to self determine. It's most helpful if they can identify and label what they are dealing with for themselves instead of having you tell them. It's funny because you find out that most people have similar experiences when it comes down to it.

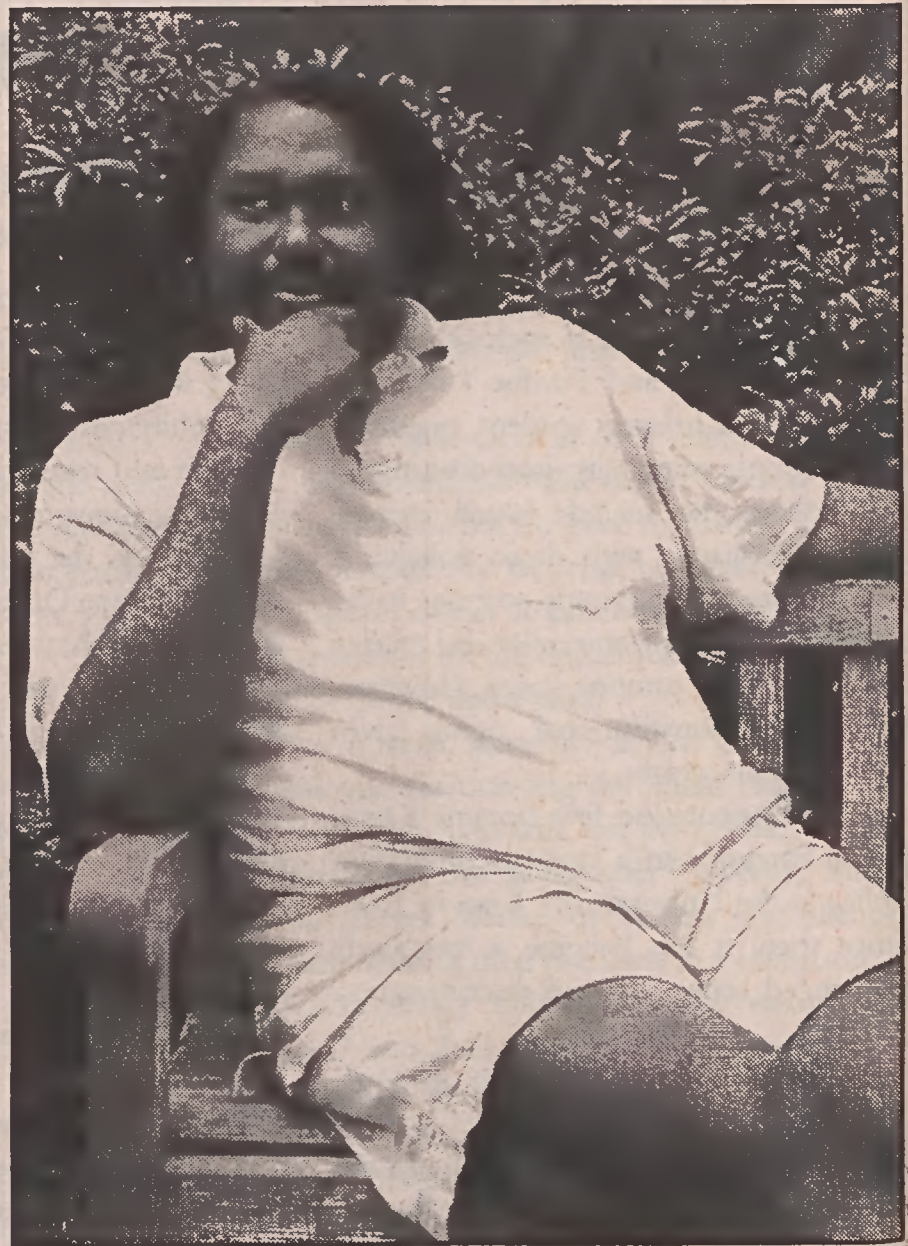


Photo by Michael Jerch

LAMBDA: What personal qualities do you have that will help you perform well in this role?

AR: I consider myself a better role model now with more general knowledge to share. And I like sharing it! I'm a really great communicator, so now I can share that knowledge better. And I'm still close enough in age to students to relate to them on many levels.

LAMBDA: What vision do you have for the LGBTIQ on-campus community while you are here?

AR: Oh, there is a terrific Audre Lord quote that describes my vision perfectly: "... and the visibility which makes us most vulnerable is that which is also the source of our greatest strength." Audre Lord is such an amazing woman in case you didn't know. It's really how I have grown to see myself over time. I have that quote on a banner I used at NCSSM. I absolutely love that woman!

LAMBDA: Are there any ways in which you have already seen your vision manifest itself on campus this year?

Continued on the next page