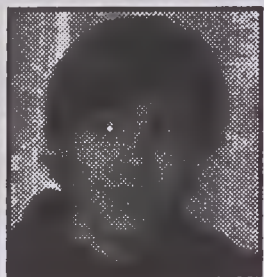


From the Editor



As the oldest LGBTIQ-affirming magazine in the country approaches its thirtieth birthday, we have decided to give it an early present - a makeover. Appropriately, the new LAMBDA is classier, wiser and cooler than before. But fear not - it's still the same-old LAMBDA, here to provide you with news and opinions about gender and sexuality that you won't find anywhere else.

That being said, welcome to the sex issue. When our staff discussed the possibility of a completely sex-related edition of LAMBDA, we were concerned about maintaining the quality of a serious publication and not degenerating into "fluff" or pornography. At the same time, we didn't want to take ourselves so seriously that it hindered us from producing something that would be both honest and fun to read. This dialogue made me consider how LGBTIQ people are often caught in a double bind. We are stereotyped as over-sexed and promiscuous, and, to combat this stereotype, the media sometimes go out of their way to desexualize images of LGBTIQ people. What often results is an unrealistic fantasy that doesn't represent most people, straight or non-straight.

Television shows like "Will and Grace" or movies like (at least one of our contributors would argue) the new box-office hit "Brokeback Mountain" ignore large portions of our community. How many movies have you seen about serious same-gender relationships? How many TV shows have featured LGBTIQ people of color? How many bisexual characters do you see in the media who are not portrayed as sexually promiscuous? Why are sexually promiscuous characters always vilified? Have you ever seen a transgender or intersex person in a sex scene? By making LGBTIQ people conform to society's ideals of morality and beauty, a larger problem is created - those who do not conform are further marginalized.

Humans are sexual beings; indeed, every person is the product of a sexual act. In this issue, our contributors have set out to discover "the naked truth," accessing the risks, myths, fun and pains of sex. As always, we also have coverage of recent and upcoming events, like January's Ally Week and a preview of April's Unity Conference, the biggest LGBTIQ event in the Southeast. Thank you for opening our pages; we'd like to return the favor by opening your mind.

In unity,
Robert Wells
rewells@email.unc.edu

Mission

LAMBDA IS UNC-CHAPEL HILL'S LESBIAN-, GAY-, BISEXUAL-, TRANSGENDER-, INTERSEX- AND QUEER-AFFIRMING PUBLICATION, PROVIDING A PROGRESSIVE OUTLET FOR NEWS, ANALYSIS, OPINION AND DIALOGUE. AS SUCH, WE ARE INHERENTLY COMMITTED TO A FEMINIST, ANTI-RACIST AND HISTORICALLY CONSCIOUS PERSPECTIVE IN PURSUIT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE.

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LAMBDA is a project of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender - Straight Alliance



This publication is funded at least in part by student fees, which were appropriated and dispensed by the Student Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

LAMBDA is printed in Benson, N.C., by Benson News Printing.