

GLBT-SA: Yes, The “S” IS for “Straight.”

How can you be a good ally to LGBTIQ communities? Many UNC students found out during the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender – Straight Alliance’s (GLBT-SA) second annual Ally Week. Colorful tri-fold posters lit up the Pit featuring information on Safe Zone, celebrity allies, and the definitions of “L,” “G,” “B,” “T,” and “Q”. Students covered an entire rainbow flag with Carolina blue hearts between classes to symbolize

their willingness to be allies to LGBTIQ people. Flyers featuring the week’s events and tips on being a good ally donned the table as well as cookie cakes and candy. The week’s schedule included “Saving Face”, a movie discussing two atypical relationships in Chinese culture, an Ally Panel, a Super Social Hour and a Half by the LGBTQ Office, and a lock-in by United for New Ideas Toward Ethnic Diversity (UNITED).

Monday night’s event was a showing of “Saving Face” co-sponsored by the Asian Students Association. “Saving Face” is a romantic film featuring two taboo relationships in the Chinese community - a single mother who is pregnant and her daughter’s lesbian relationship. The ending offered hope for the increase of open-mindedness in relationships for the Chinese community. It drove home the point of how hard it is to become an ally in many cultures and the difficulties of being a minority within a minority community. Because it fell on the first day of the Chinese New Year, Chinese dumplings, candy and cookies were provided. Afterwards, former GLBT-SA Co-Chair, Pooja Gupta, and UNITED member, Jason Wang, led a discussion about working to change the nega-



Sophomore and head of the Ally Week committee Pooja Gupta talks with students about being allies in the pit. (Photo by Ryan Jones)