

LAMBDA

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from the editor



Where would we be without our allies? What if all gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people were alone in their fight for acceptance and equality? I am gracious to have many amazing allies in my life, such as my roommate, who was kind enough to appear on the front cover of this issue. I'm in awe of my straight friends who constantly stick up for me, whether by walking around campus wearing rainbow "ally" buttons, speaking up when another student or professor makes a homophobic or heteronormative remark, or simply listening to me talk about my "boy drama" without being judgmental.

I know I'm lucky, especially looking down the road at North Carolina State University. Students and faculty at NCSU are currently pushing for an LGBT center like the one we have at UNC, but they are meeting much opposition. I'm more worried about the effects of the homophobic remarks being made in the debates around the center than the actual non-existence of said center. Even though we have an amazing LGBTQ office, there are people on our own campus who lack support from their friends and feel unsafe coming out or showing affection for people of the same gender in public. We always need visible allies who are willing to accept and defend (not just passively tolerate) LGBTIQ students.

Our ally friends should be our role models and remind us that we have a duty to stand up for others when they are being harassed or discriminated against. The GLBT-SA has a history of supporting multiple social justice causes, which included sponsoring "The Vagina Monologues" this spring. A surprising amount of people asked me, "Why is the gay club sponsoring a feminist event?" The answer is simple: The idea that women are less than men is the same as the idea that gay men are less than straight men. The idea that black is less than white is the same as the idea that intersex is less than man or woman. Oppression is all about norms and ideas of beauty. We can't pick and choose our battles; they are all one and the same.

I hope that this issue of LAMBDA inspires you, whether queer, straight or something in between, to go to a club meeting you've never been to and speak up when you think what someone is saying or doing might be hurting someone else.

In unity,
Robert Wells

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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