

From the Editor



I wasn't very involved with the queer community at UNC my first three years here as a student, even though I have been interested in LGBTIQ politics since high school. I suppose I felt unsure I could easily find acceptance and, like so many first-year students at this giant University, I was intimidated by established campus groups where everyone seemed to know one another already.

It has taken until my senior year for me to finally realize how irrational my fear was – in fact, it contradicts an essential element of the GLBT-SA mentality. Acceptance of everyone, no matter which part of the all-inclusive acronym one identifies with, is what unity is all about. There is no community more diverse, and it's hard to imagine another community in which acceptance of individuality could be more important.

I worked in Los Angeles this summer with the National Center for Lesbian Rights, a law firm that serves LGBTIQ clients, as well as in a youth shelter for homeless queer youth. Both jobs were located in a large building called the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. This was my first experience working in an environment where one was assumed to be non-heterosexual, as opposed to the opposite, which we all know is the case in nearly every sphere in our society. Living and working in the L.A. queer community was easily the most rewarding experience of my life, and I was proud to find that acceptance was simply a given. Sure, the office had a professional atmosphere akin to any other I've worked in, but underneath that was an unspoken comfort that wrapped itself around everyone in the building. Everyone there was a part of a movement for social justice, and everyone there was part of a group where acceptance is the default. One week in that office and I knew that that was the type of society we *all* deserve to live in, *all* the time.

Now that I've gotten the chance to work with LAMBDA, I have become better acquainted with several of the members of our school's thriving GLBT-SA. Not only have I been warmly embraced as an ally, I have been rewarded by being a part of an effective campus community that plans and executes endless events each semester. The leadership here is strong, the attitude is positive and the younger students are eager.

Coming Out week is here, and the Carolina LGBTIQ community is ready to open its arms to anyone and everyone. Enjoy the issue.

In unity,
Daniel Becton
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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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