

Lesbian Group Aims to Empower Members

BY MATTHEW BOYATT
STAFF WRITER

One of the benefits of being a student at UNC is the wide array of free academic services offered by the University. Unfortunately, many students do not realize that the University goes well beyond the academic realm to keep students at their peak.

The University Counseling Center, located in Nash Hall, is one of the helpful outlets exclusive to students seeking assistance with regards to personal or social issues.

The Lesbian Empowerment Group is one of several groups available to students through the Counseling Center. Created in the fall of 1994, lesbian students attending UNC are now able to receive professional counseling if they so desire.

Doctors Tracey Gersh and Maureen Windle are the residing psychologists at the Center, and they serve as the co-facilitators of the Empowerment group.

Gersh and Windle said they could see how non-lesbians might be skeptical of the term empowerment; however, their intention was to make the group's members

realize that they were not part of an obscure and voiceless minority.

"In choosing the name we wanted to stay away from calling it a support group because this implies you have a weakness," Windle said. "We want the members to feel empowered, and this in itself should not be seen as offensive."

Windle also recognized the fact that some males tend to be egotistic when it comes to issues concerning lesbians. "I don't know why some men are so homophobic," Windle said. "Lesbians do not hate males. This is one of the big misconceptions that many men have."

Withstanding more than their share of negatively imposed sentiment, lesbians continue to press forward and gain support from each other through their collective gatherings. Both Gersh and Windle said that the lesbian students attending the meetings were very responsive to the program.

During group meetings the students are encouraged to express any concerns or opinions they may have both on a personal level and in matters relating to the functioning of the gatherings.

"Lesbians do not hate males. This is one of the big misconceptions that many men have."

MAUREEN WINDLE
University Counseling Center
psychologist

This freedom to be able to individually direct the course of each session lends a special uniqueness to the group and sets it apart from other counseling formats.

Gersh and Windle believed that by acting as facilitators, rather than exacting counselors, the beneficial feeling of empowerment will be placed in the hands of the participants.

The weekly gatherings are held on Tuesdays between 3:20 and 4:50 p.m. in Nash Hall. "The meetings are open to all graduate and undergraduate students," Gersh said. "Right now we have about a dozen members in the group and most come to each meeting."

Campus Calendar

TUESDAY
11 p.m. N.C. SCALE is sponsoring Readouts at the Franklin Street Post Office and the Bulls' Head Bookshop on the UNC-CH campus.

3:15 p.m. UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER will hold a Career Clinic in Nash Hall. Call 962-2175 for more information.

7 p.m. POWER will meet in the basement of Campus Y.

ROAD BLOCKS TO FINANCIAL SUCCESS will meet in Suite 599 in Europa Center in Chapel Hill.

ITEMS OF INTEREST
HILLEL will have an Interfaith Shabbat on Friday at 6:15 p.m. for those interested in experiencing a Jewish Sabbath service.

ELECTIONS BOARD Petitions are available at Union 217G for candidates for Districts 2, 5, 8, 10, 18 & 23.

MANDATORY Honor code presentations for freshmen and transfers will take place Monday through Thursday this week at 7 p.m. in 100 Hamilton Hall or 111 Murphey Hall.

AAUP is sponsoring a Fall Forum on faculty salaries on Thursday at 4 p.m. in Wilson Library Assembly Room.

PUBLIC FORUM ON INDEPENDENT POLITICAL PARTIES will be held on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in 111 Murphey Hall.

FOOTFALLS. The Campus Y's Race for Humanity. Come do a 5-km run or a 2-mile walk. T-shirts only \$10.

GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP will hold discussions related to coming out, relationships, health concerns and religion. Call Student Psychological Services at 966-3698.

CAMPUS Y will be hosting A Catalyst for Positive Social Change outreach during the month of November. The Y is looking for hosts and facilitators. For more information, call 962-2333.

ELECTIONS BOARD Petitions and candidates' packets will soon be available for Nov. 14 special election. Please contact Annie Stuart at 962-5201 for more information.

SURVIVOR OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP meets every first and third Thursday of each month. Call Brenda at 489-5473 for more information.

HORNE

Associate Provost Marilyn Yarborough said.

"(The departments) made a decision based on material already sent," Yarborough said.

History Professor Genna Rae McNeil said her committee was considering hiring Horne because of his range of expertise.

"He has a good reputation," McNeil said. "Several members of the history department are familiar with his work and are looking forward to his visit."

Because Horne has been in Africa for the better part of the year, this trip gives him the opportunity to meet members of the University community and members of the three departments, McNeil said.

"(The meeting) is an informal opportunity for the scholar to meet with other faculty members and students and raise any questions he or she has about the (history) department," McNeil said.

Horne said he was interested in the professorships because he wanted to make a contribution to UNC.

"I'm sure I could contribute to already strong departments, and that's what I would hope to do," he said.

Horne said he had been following the

For the Record

In the Oct. 30 'In the News' section, Queen Elizabeth's photograph was mistakenly replaced with the Queen Mother's picture. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

FINANCE

FROM PAGE 1
fore congress to request funds, and they said they were acting in good faith. "We have not lied before this body," Reid said. The committee's decision means the \$4,000 allocated to the CAA in October will be returned to the general reserve and the \$3,500 of student government funds remaining in the CAA's account will be frozen until next year. The CAA will have to function on the \$20,000 remaining in their SAFO account.

Rep. Steve Oljeski, Dist. 4, and Holland said they were not satisfied with the committee's decisions, because they felt

Reid and Walsh deliberately misled congress. "I am not even close to being through yet," Oljeski said.

Oljeski and Holland said they would file a complaint with the undergraduate Attorney General alleging that Reid and Walsh lied to congress about the athletic department funds in their account.

After the meeting, Reid said he felt the committee's actions were based on a personal bias against him and Walsh, saying "I feel attacked by certain members of the finance committee who appear to hold in higher esteem personal grudges against myself and Ian Walsh than they do their duties as officers of the finance committee."



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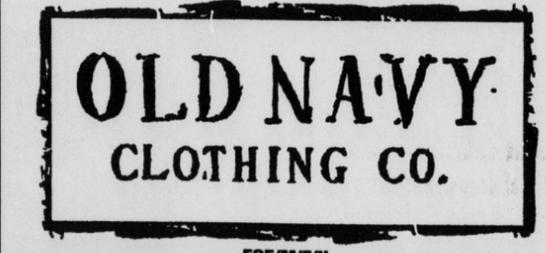
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