

Queer Activist to Address Gender Issues

BY SELINA LIM
Staff Writer

South Asian queer activist Urvashi Vaid will return to campus to address political activism and gender issues today.

Vaid's visit is part of the South Asian awareness organization Sangam's attempt to become more politically active, something the new officers said was a goal of the group. Vaid said one issue she would address in her speech was the status of political activism. "It's different today. There's a tremendous interest in politics on campus. This generation's concerned about a variety of issues."

Sangam presents
Urvashi Vaid
7:30 p.m.
Today
Hanes Art Center
Room 121

Vaid is author of "Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian Liberation" and Director of the Policy Institute of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. "Through my 20 years of work as a political activist, I've seen how a few people can make a huge difference in everyone's lives."

It was gratifying to see students stand for economic justice, Vaid said. "When I hear about things like that, I'm like, 'Yes!' Social justice has always moved forward with student activists."



South Asian queer activist Urvashi Vaid said she would address the status of political activism.

First invited to the University by the Queer Network for Change four years ago, Vaid's return marks the first lecturer to be sponsored by Sangam. Sangam invited Vaid after receiving \$1,000 from the Williamson Committee for Gay and Lesbian Studies.

Co-chairwoman of Sangam's task force Monica Dev said group members were anticipating Vaid's visit.

"People have heard her speak before, or they've heard of her."

Sangam member Priya Gupta said people perceived Sangam to be a very socially and culturally based group. "Urvashi Vaid is a large name, and our inviting her here represents Sangam's incorporation of politics," Gupta said.

Along with Vaid's background in political activism, Sangam also invited her to UNC because of her homosexuality. Dev said that topic needed to be addressed. "Homosexuality is a hidden

issue in South Asia," Dev said. "The community hardly acknowledges it. And (Vaid) is not just out of the closet, she's also so open about it and discussing it."

"Sangam is an awareness group, and this means we have to make people aware that homosexuality is a part of our culture," Dev said.

QNC Co-chairwoman Maia Kaplan said it was great that Sangam was bringing someone who dealt with so many issues. "She's a very good speaker," she said. "She tends to focus on the interconnectedness of issues like sexism and racism. She makes you realize that they aren't separate things."

The speech will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Hanes Art Center auditorium.

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SYSTEMS

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court system has only been in place since 1993, officials deem it extremely successful.

Julian Harris, the chairman of the Honor Council, said two sections comprised the system. While the Honor Council takes care of educating the university about the honor code, the Undergraduate and Judicial Board actually carries out the hearings for cases.

Harris said the Honor Council worked to publicize the honor code with

an emphasis on educating freshmen on what constitutes a violation of the rules.

Duke's honor court system uses a mixed panel of students, faculty and administrators to pass judgment on cases.

Most schools, like Duke, focus their efforts on freshmen to instill scholastic morality early in the careers of their students. "We do programs in all freshman dorms," Harris said. "We do things on morals and discuss futures with students."

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SWEATSHOP

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McCoy would make the decision during the summer, when students' voices would be weaker. "We want students to have the ability to react and take action. It's a student-initiated movement, so it makes sense that we're involved in the whole process."

McCoy said Wednesday he needed time to mull over the students' viewpoints and the advisory committee's suggestions, which he hadn't received yet. "The right procedure would be to hear from the task force and act as expeditiously as I can."

He said later that he would meet with students again at 11:30 a.m. today in South Building. Pete Andrews, co-chairman of the advisory committee, said at the Monday meeting that committee members wanted to focus on the details and wording of the recommendation. "We agree with your points, but I'm not

sure why (students) feel resistance to this."

He said the task force had planned to meet Friday to finish its recommendations but then decided to meet this morning at 8:30 because of student pressure.

Despite the progress of protests so far, students continued to raise awareness by distributing handbills in the Pit, Glaser said. In addition, the group sent out progress reports via e-mail.

Senior Lorelei Costa said the protesters also contacted other schools, such as Duke University and the University of Wisconsin. "We're setting up meetings and talking to other universities who are in solidarity with us."

She said the faculty who worked in South Building was pleasant toward the protesters. "I think the word spread quickly, and everyone knows we're here until we get what we want."

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COLORADO

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scene, which SWAT members described as something from "Dante's Inferno."

Many bodies were sprawled on the floor, slumped in desks or crouched beneath tables, boxes and cubicles where they apparently tried to hide. Police found a handgun under one of the killers, and a semiautomatic rifle and two sawed-off shotguns elsewhere.

"It was a different sort of chaos inside," SWAT Sgt. George Hinkle said. "There were fire alarms going off, strobe lights, 4 inches of water in the cafeteria. We had been told there were bombs in backpacks and there were backpacks everywhere. It was the toughest tactical problem I've ever seen."

Sheriff's spokesman Steve Davis said 30 explosive devices had been found at Columbine, in the killers' vehicles and at their homes. Late Tuesday, more than 10 hours after the shootings, a time bomb blew up, but no one was hurt.

"Some of these devices are on timing devices, some are incendiary devices and some are pipe bombs," Sheriff John Stone told ABC's "Good Morning America." "Some are like hand grenades that have got shrapnel in them wrapped around butane containers."

Eleven of the victims were male and four were female. District Attorney

Dave Thomas said there was no evidence that the killers targeted minorities, as some students claimed. Only one of the 13 victims was black.

"I've only seen the photographs, but it appears to me that most of the victims were victims because of where they were at a particular time, not that they were sought out," Thomas said. "Most of the victims were in the library, and that's where these two persons ended up. ... I don't know what the motive was other than anger."

Sixteen people remained hospitalized, 11 in critical or serious condition. The gunmen's families would not speak to reporters, but both issued statements Wednesday.

"Our thoughts, prayers and heartfelt apologies go out to the victims, their families, friends and the entire community," the Klebold family said. "Like the rest of the country, we are struggling to understand why this happened, and ask that you please respect our privacy during this painful grieving period."

Harris' parents said: "We want to express our heartfelt sympathy to the families of all the victims and to all the community for this senseless tragedy. Please say prayers for everyone touched by these terrible events."

Witnesses said Harris and Klebold targeted athletes and minorities, laughing at their victims and using a racial epithet to describe the black victim.

Campus Calendar

Thursday

7 p.m. - Today is Earth Day! Robert Bullard, author of "Dumping Dixie," will be speaking on environmental justice in the Carolina Union Auditorium.

7:30 p.m. - Urvashi Vaid speaks about prejudice at the Hanes Art Center. The author of "Virtual Equality" is a leader of the National Task Force for Gays and Lesbians.

For more information, call Monica Dev at 914-5017.

7:30 p.m. - Nike and the Carolina Women's Center are hosting Women's Safe Night Run.

Meet at Woollen Gym at 7:30 p.m. The run begins at 8 p.m.

Friday

7:30 p.m. - The Chapel Hill Playlars will give a show at Howell Hall. Tickets are \$4. All proceeds benefit Cystic Fibrosis research.

8 p.m. - The Department of Dramatic Art Studio One presents "Slavsi," a play by Tony Kushner in Playmakers Theatre.

Performances will also be given at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday. All shows are free.

Saturday

11 a.m. - Everyone is invited to the Great Strides Walk for Cystic Fibrosis Research. The walk will start and finish at the Old Well. Free lunch for all walkers.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. The walk is sponsored by the Carolina Cystic Fibrosis Organization.

Items of Interest

■ The Asian and Asian American Center for Development (AACD) is currently accepting applications for Executive Board positions for the 1999-2000 school year.

Applications available in the Union or at our Web site at www.cs.unc.edu/~munasato/aacd/index.htm.

Applications are due at 5 p.m. Friday in the AACD folder at the Student Union front desk.

For more information, please e-mail nkataria@email.unc.edu.

■ Volunteer Orange!, a service of the Triangle United Way, has immediate volunteer needs.

Volunteer Orange! recruits and refers volunteers to more than 170 nonprofit and public organizations. If you are interested in volunteering, call 929-9837.

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April 22
3:30pm

Andrews is professor of environmental policy in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Department of City and Regional Planning, Curriculum in Public Policy Analysis, and Curriculum in Ecology at UNC.

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