1995

Successful LGBT Activities on Campus Around the US

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Successful LGB/T activities on campus around the U.S. gathered from the Internet

Compiled by

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At the University of Minnesota, we've done some fantastic NCOW programming.

To facilitate, we've always had one person in charge of collecting events and people to run the events, and to make out a schedule. Usually we've had about 3 events a day every day of the week. A lot of the events/tangential events we've had included:

Pink Picnic: On NCOW, a picnic was held on the student mall for queer and queer supportive people to just "be out". Everyone brings a bag lunch and just sits and eats and provides visibility.

Internalized Homophobia Seminar: The year I lead this week, this event drew 108 people (the room was only designed to hold 60). It was run by two faculty members who just showed how to recognize and eliminate the internal homophobia in all of us.

What's On Campus: An invaluable meeting, where everyone on campus is invited to find out what all of the queer struggles on campus are, who is doing anything about them, how to get involved and who to contact to become affective. A faculty member and a student were interested in starting a domestic partnership project, and they mentioned it here. Two years later our college now has full domestic partnership benefits.

We've also used this time to organize specialty groups. Some groups that have met during this week are:

- LGB People of Color
- University Bi Community
- Queer Engineers
- LGB International Students
- LGBT Medical Students
- LGB Alumni
- Pagan Support and Practice: A group of queer pagans
- Heterosexuals Unafraid of Gays

You can use the advertising for this week to mention these groups. The Bi group, Med group and Alumni all still meet.

We've also had

- Debates on Outing
- Separatism vs Assimilatism
- Lesbian Sex and Pornography
- Gays and Lesbians Working Together (very helpful)
- Queer Film Festivals
- Coming Out Panels
- Coming Out Through The Ages
- Coming Out in the Military
- Coming Out in Academia

As for advertising. The biggest statement we made was to take out the full back page of the student newspaper and cover it with names of students, faculty and staff who are out on campus. Since school only starts about 1.5 weeks before NCOW for us, we've never been able to collect more than 130 names, but spread out, these still look impressive.

A student who worked in a bookstore always had all the display cases filled with books about g/l people.

A group of students would go chalk the campus the night before NCOW.

An attempt was made to cause our school paper to go from the "Minnesota Daily" to the "Minnesota Gayly" for the day. We think they were willing to do it, but our energy ran out.

Generally there are a lot of people in a lot of places who can (and want to) do a lot of interesting things. So, the hard part is just finding them and coordinating efforts. And then nagging them to get it done.
Hi, Rosie. I'm on leave and have no idea what the kids are up to this year, but in the past year or two the following have been great successes:

1. The Hoprah Show. A mock Oprah Winfrey show entitled "The Heterosexuals Among Us." Performance art/theatre, whatever. Requires folks who are good at improv. We had a panel of four: a straight caterer who really wanted to be a trucker but was afraid of being stereotyped as a typical straight guy; a single het woman into the bar scene; a happily living together couple, although she had lost her job as a teacher for fear she'd contaminate the kids--she was now selling cosmetics out of her kitchen; and a trucker who was straight and proud of it. And the required psychological expert, complete with a copy of her new book. The cast did backstory for their characters, Hoprah prepared questions, and the event took off. Had an audience of about 100, who really got into the Q&A of the Oprah format. It was hilarious and instructive. We'll do it again when we get more improvisationally minded students.

2. A debate between the student lesbigay group and the InterVarsity Christians. This was approached with trepidation by the gay kids, who feared fire and brimstone lectures from the Christians and possibly a free-for-all fight, but things went really well. This was part of multicultural week around here, and the two groups decided to get together and see if they shared any common ground. The students involved spent about 8 hours together in pre-meetings to set rules, boundaries, etc. and get to know each other, then there was the "debate", which actually turned into a conversation in which the groups found that though there were some things they would never agree on, they shared the fact that the campus as a whole thought of each group as "fringe" and "weird", that they suffered persecution to varying degrees, etc. Had a huge audience for this and lots of discussion. It went well, though I thought rather too politely. There has been cautious rapprochment between the two groups since.

We've done other things, too, but these have probably been the most successful in the last year or so. Hope this helps,

Daphne
On Sun, 28 Nov 1993, Rosie wrote:

> A couple of weeks ago, I ran a notice asking if folks could write to me about
> any successful events that they had on their campuses around lesbian/gay
> issues
> so I could bring them to our planning meeting this week. In case people
> forgot, I'm asking again...I only got a couple of replies.

Rosie, Last Spring here at Wake Forest University, we had a class offered
in Gay and Lesbian Literature and Theory. It was offered through the
Women's Studies Program. This was the first time for this class and it
had a spill over enrollment of 35 people. As the culminating event, the
class offered a kind of symposium - with class members presenting their
research papers to the campus community. Again there was a large
audience for these papers which covered various topics - ranging from
theological issues to historical and sociological perspectives. It was,
I think, a very successful event and has opened lesbian and gay issues to
academic inquiry here on our conservative campus.

I took the class as part of my MALS program, added many good titles to
the library as part of my work as Women's studies bibliographer, and am
continuing to build the collection now in my role as Acquisitions librarian.
2 students from the class have recently presented their papers at Duke
University's Graduate Students Research Symposium, so the effects of the
effort are ongoing.

I don't know what kind of events you are looking for, but academic issues
presented to your campus in a scholarly symposium may be useful. Good
luck with your venture.

Jill Carraway
Wake Forest University
jill@lib.wfunet.wfu.edu
Subject: activities
To: pegueros@uriacc.uri.edu
In-Reply-To: <mOoyyKn-000UNVC@qiclab.scm.rain.com>
Message-ID: <Pine.3.87.9311151532.A12627-0100000@elepaio>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Rosie,

Our University Task Force on Sexual Orientation put together a wee of activities around Coming Out Day. A lot of different things happened here, but I don't have a calendar. One of the very successful items was an art show with Gay and Lesbian Artists. There was a reception which the Commission on the Status of Women paid for (I'm on that committee and one of our members on the task force just said "hey we need a little $ can the commission give some and there was a fast and unanimous response from everyone that of course we wanted to we just had to be sure that women were involved and every way-straight person on the commission seemed to understand very well that supporting lesbians and gay men was ABSOLUTELY in the interest of women on the university campus. They all got it to the point that no one even had to discuss it or argue for it much. I add all of this to encourage you to get other groups involved. It may be a lot easier than you expect. I know the commission on diversity, the undergrad and grad student associations as well as local community centers all helped in some ways, with money, getting out the word with free advertising, whatever.)

Activities, let's see

plays, musicians, art show, movie showings, speakers, safe sex workshops.

The thing that impressed me here was that they didn't have to put everything together. Instead they got other groups who are ready to do something choose a lesbigay theme or topic for that week. So the late-night theater group did queer plays, the open mike night type thing had a queer bill of singers, the student health people did their safe-sex AIDS awareness including homosexual info--hold it, I'm not sure that was that week. That happened at gay pride. I'm not sure anyway you get the idea. Good luck. Oh, the theme of the art show was called Queers-R-Us.

Sara

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Subject: Re: Lesbigay events

Events....

Depends upon how one defines successful.

As you know, any public event brings out the usual suspects who will deride and attempt to cause trouble.

I know that once a year CSUN (Cal State University at Northridge) holds a "Kiss-In."

Several years ago this did however bring posters around the campus advertising "Free Bats" to any "Normal" folks who wanted to attend.

For what it's worth....

Deborah fauxhack@aol.com
Where to begin? I think the best examples that I've been involved in organizing are Rainbow Week and Bad Art Night (a personal favourite). Rainbow Week's basic premise is much the same as a Pride Week, but is centred around the rainbow flag. Rainbow ribbons are handed out to everyone who's willing to wear them in support (strate or queer), along with an appropriate explanation of the history/meaning of the flag. (Make sure you do the latter - we had a few complaints re: appropriation until we increased out information flow). We handed out over 2000 ribbons, and you can still see them around campus. The best way to obtain rainbow ribbons is to find webbing (like backpack straps), which is a bit more expensive, but the only truly rainbow fabric we found. This campaign was conceived to replace the highly contested 'wear your jeans' day that Queen's used last year, and I believe is widely used across the country. I have a great article on the history of the flag if you need it (pulled it off of soc.motss).

Bad Art Night is just a lot of fun. It's usually set up as a fundraiser, and the LGBA shares proceeds with several charities (I think; it may be that the money just goes to the charities). Basically anything goes; as long as it's bad, cheesy, or just plain funny. My ex. shaved her head on stage and raised $50 this year...)

Bad Art Night was actually a part of Rainbow Week. There were also poetry readings, movie nights, and several regularly scheduled talk/social groups held 'bring your friends' nights (read: strate friends - although a surprising number end up surprising you :)).

Well, if I think of any more events, I'll e-mail you... Good luck.

Trish ()-|-
()|-|
At the University of Pittsburgh, the Lesbian and Gay Academic Association (LGAAP) is planning to invite the Chancellor and his wife and selected faculty to a catered luncheon on National Coming Out Day. The intent is to introduce our organization and ourselves to him and discuss with him some of our concerns. The invitations have not yet gone out, so we do not yet know whether he will accept the invitation. I am very interested in hearing about events planned at other universities and colleges.

Ray Anne Lockard, Head of Frick Fine Arts Library and Co-Moderator of LGAAP

From: donnam@FUENTEZ.COM (Donna McNamara)

Subject: Things to do...

Hi there...

I don't know of things to do specifically for NCOD, but there was one thing we used to do on a yearly basis. I don't know if it would work where you are since it's warm, but it could be fun. I was president of the Gay and Lesbian Association of the University of Rhode Island for two years ending in 1991. When I joined the group in 1986 we had a tradition of Blue Jean Day. Being a colder climate, we would choose a crisp January day...place posters all over campus that the next day was the day to wear your jeans if you support Gay Rights...and watch the fun when the frat boys saw the posters and ran back to their houses to change into the only other things they owned: dress pants or shorts. We would supplement the fun with informational booths in the student union. I'm sure there is a variation of this that would work at UCLA.

Good luck with NCOD..

-Donna
donnam@fuentez.com

FILE: BRAIN STORM AD VM/ESA Conversational Monitor System

To: LECUYER@NAUVAX.UCC.NAU.EDU
Subject: Re: Re: NCOD info

two years ago we built a huge pink door and installed it in the center of campus. Those interested could walk through it and have their picture taken, speakers gave talks in front of it. We also had a "walk of flame" that lined the main sidewalk with posters of biographies of famous gay people.

It was lots cost, great fun!

Anne
Activity Meeting
October 13 • 7:30pm • 260 Architecture Building
Since plans fell through to see a SAME production off-campus, we've been hard pressed to come up with another activity. Rest assured that there will be something going on this Wednesday evening in room 260 of the Architecture Building.

View The Crying Game
October 20 • 7:30pm • 260 Architecture Building
Much hoopla came up this year in movie circles and at the Oscars when people learned the secret of the movie The Crying Game. We'll find out what the secret is and discuss implications and subjects which the movie raises. Because of logistics, the movie will start at 7:30 exactly and will run until 9:30. Come early. If time allows we will vote on a new Vice President.

Guest Speaker on Drag
October 27 • 7:30pm • 260 Architecture Building
This evening is certain to be anything but a drag. We will have a big name in the Atlanta drag scene come to speak to us about male drag. If you've had any nagging questions, you may never have a better time to ask them.

Halloween Get Together
Plans are in the works for some sort of intercollege get together with other gay groups for the Halloween weekend. Details will be handling the details, but details are still sketchy at this point. We'll keep you informed.

Stress Surveys
Lynn Morris and Robin Lewis, PhD from the Dept. of Psychology at Old Dominion University have test as a survey on stresses experienced by gay males, lesbians and bisexuals. We will distribute these at the next 2 meetings. If you know that you cannot attend one of these meetings but would like to complete a survey, please contact Shannon.

Dues & Buttons
Please make arrangements to pay your dues for Fall Quarter during the upcoming 2-week period. We want to know everyone out for not paying their dues, but paying them helps out tremendously with GALA's finances. Please pay at accounting meeting, or mail a check made payable to GALA. As an added incentive for those of you paying your dues for this quarter ($5) for the entire year ($15) you will receive a free button! These buttons were made at our work party and look wonderful. Whether you want to support GALA, or show your true Tech geekiness by wearing the coolers, buy one today. Supplies are limited, so don't delay!

National Coming Out Day
GALA promoted NCOD this year by displaying our brightly painted banner outside the Student Center. We also staffed a booth with information during the peak Post Office Lobby hours on Monday. While not many people stopped by the booth, we were a visible campus presence on this special gay occasion.

AIDS Walk
Boyd Rockwell (894-2805) is one of the Team Leaders for Georgia Tech. The Walk is on October 17 (this upcoming Sunday). If you aren't already on a team, please call Boyd soon.

Self-Defense Meeting
October 30-31 We'll be having a self-defense meeting by a very respected Tae Kwon Do instructor. Attendance for this particular meeting will be limited to 20. The cost for each attendee will be $2-$3. Please RSVP to make sure you'll be a part of this enlightening evening.

Dorn Talks:
Two Dorn Talks have been scheduled so far this quarter as part of the Freshman Experience. The first is on Tuesday 10/25 at 8pm in Havoc Dorm (women). The second will be on Thursday 10/28 at 8pm in Towers Dorm (men). If you would like to be a part of our panel please give us a call. The panel consists of 6 members who tell a little about themselves and then respond to audience questions. If you don't want to be on a panel, there are other ways you can help out.

The Advocate
GALA has provided the Library with a three year subscription to The Advocate. This is the first gay periodical that we know of, EVER, at Tech. In the Library computer directory ACAD, hundreds of articles were referenced in 1992 alone. This is an invaluable resource and we hope that everyone has a chance to use it.

We would like to supplement our current gift subscription to Georgia Tech's Library with back issues. Please contact Shannon at 497-0684 if you have any old copies of the Advocate. They cannot be purchased from the publisher as they do not carry back issues. A whole year's back issues would be very helpful especially 1992. Thanks.

Alumni Party Dec 1
GALA is currently working hard to contact previous Tech GALA alumni. We have only been able to find these names on old newsletter lists. If you know a GT alum (yourself?) - PLEASE give us a call at 497-0684. The motivations for this event are many. First, we will have a hella time to ask them.

Board Recommends...
Last quarter GALA published a short missive from Danny Ingram in the newsletter concerning his personal view concerning the Military ban of homosexuals. Danny was personally going through hearings concerning his status as an openly gay service member. Here's what followed Danny's piece written by Danece himself:

After a four-hour hearing last week at a military law center in Chambnee, an administrative board of two majors and a lieutenant colonel unanimously passed a recommendation that he be discharged from the U.S. Army Reserve for homosexuality. The recommended discharge will be honorable. The president of the board stated that they deeply regretted having to render a decision in which they had no options, particularly when the action cost the Army such an exceptional soldier. But the regulations were clear and the prosecutor had all the evidence he needed. The board had no choice.

My attorney (a military officer himself) and I were the only people in the room who had no knowledge that someone had tipped off the press and they were waiting outside in the hallway. Earlier in the week we had offered a compromise that was rejected, that I would not speak to the media in exchange for the general allowing me to serve the remainder of my term which expires in April of next year. The Army decided to take the threat seriously and got the jump by calling the press themselves. I believe that most of the press which showed on the 11:00 pm local news last night.

The 81st USAR Command has over 1000000 cases pending against service members. It occurs usually for a year for a board to be called in a case. My board was put ahead of all the others and was finalized in six months. My attorney thinks this was done because the Army fears the ban policy will be overturned in the near future and they wanted to get rid of me immediately.

I learned one important lesson from this action. The Army has a lot of problems, but there are also many very good and compassionate people serving in the armed forces. I have received nothing but very positive remarks and support from everyone who serves with me in the Reserve. I got one call last night immediately after the news broadcast from my platoon leader offering her support if I needed it. I have been deeply touched by the support of the individuals involved, particularly by a few Tech students who served on the board and tried everything they knew to keep from discouraging me.

The enemy here is a regulation that is unjust and wasteful. I think that the ban will soon be
Domestic Partner Benefits

the second annual conference

sponsored by

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

---More---

OCTOBER 5-6, 1995

BERNARD M. BARUCH COLLEGE
Library & Conference Center
151 East 25th Street
New York, New York 10010

DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

-The American Family: myths and realities

-Legal Update on Developments Regarding Domestic Partners Conducting a Gay & Lesbian Sensitivity Audit of the Workplace

-Domestic Partners in Corporate America

-Political Issues for Public Institutions

-Views of Benefits Vendors

---More---

-Student Domestic Partner Benefits

-How Much do Domestic Partner Benefits Really Cost?

-The Nuts & Bolts of Offering Domestic Partner Benefits

-An Open Forum on Issues of Recognition and Inclusion

FACTS AND INFORMATION

Cost - $100 (10% discount for 2 or more participants)

-Time - From: noon Thursday, October 5th to 4:00 PM Friday, October 6th

-Registration limited to 150

-lunches and breakfast included
likeness may destroy the discharge goes through.
The Secretary of the Army (sent two weeks
ago for quilling and the S. Attorney General
must both personally sign off on a discharge
for homosexuality where misconduct is involved.
That could take some time. I hope you will join me
in continuing to fight the ban.
That was a very exciting day. But the morning
alternated whitening for work (I glanced down at
my uniform where it hung neatly on its rack from last
night). Five and a half years of great challenges and
some special memories. I wondered how many of
my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters had had
that moment just like mine of looking at that
uniform the day after and knowing that they would
never again wear it in the service of the armed
forces. I don't think that the tears I shed at that
moment were very unique. Just very human.
And that's what this fight is all about.

Danny Ingram, S.P. U. S. Army Reserve

Dead Boyfriends Society

by J.M. Ruggles

(WARNING: The following article is a very dark
and horrendously correct look at the personal ef-
facts of the AIDS crisis. For many people this is
not a subject to be taken lightly in all. If this
article upsets you too much, consider the
HIV walk (see your article in this newsletter).

The Aids Awareness on San Diego, recently joined
the Dead Boyfriend Society (ABS).

Some of you may have noticed one of the
most pressing (and depressing) fact of all the
cases in which AIDS has struck those who have
entered the '80s: the Acute Boyfriend Shortage (ABS).

The Boyfriend Shortage was brought about by
the explosive growth in the explosion of the exclusive,
private club known as the Dead Boyfriend Society (ABS).
Dr. Paul, over 100,000 young men have paid the
initiation fee and joined ABS, leaving a huge
gap in the Personal Boyfriend Pool (PBP) and
leaving thousands of us Without A**** Buddy or
A Gay Date (WFBD).

If you think that I'm imagining things or
perhaps exaggerating out of an overactive and
imagined sense of reality, try this simple test on
yourself, at any time of the year, you had a
boyfriend. Come to think of it, can you remember
back that far?

Still don't believe me? Here's another test:
open your little black book, the one that needs to
be filled with page after page of phone numbers of
gay guys. Chances are it's like mine, and looks
less like an address book and more like a Discography
in the Afterlife. I've spent a small lot very real
hours and minutes on magic markers to put in all of those little
black X's.

In the past, I've always maintained that the
best way to deal with ex-boyfriends is to kill them
after you break up. That was my way of bringing
them on the street. It's an ideal that I
adored, but seldom lived up to. But then, we live
in a less than ideal world.

As attractive as the idea of having a
memorial of one of my ex-buddies, I've been opted the solution
of having to buy armless toys with those I Hu-
Longest Date (TINLD) because of ... The Dead
Boyfriend Society (DBS) (By the way, a movie by the
Boyfriend Placement Service (BPS)? I'll tell you
why not: it's the insidious creating of
memberships in the Dead Boyfriend Society and the resulting
Boyfriend Placement Service (BPS)?

In 1983, the first time period the DBS. Having
left the Basically Single space then, I have thought
about this topic lot. My conclusion: I need to get
***ed long and hard and repeatedly over a
number of years until I am going to feel good about the
subject. A number of years, but how to fulfill this
need?

There are all sorts of services available
in those areas: real marriage, real dates, love,
counseling, support groups, sex
education, and the like. But why not: it's the insidious creating of
the Dead Boyfriend Society and the resulting
Boyfriend Placement Service (BPS)!

To save you some trouble, I will tell you
about the major advance that I, in my experience,
made in finding a boyfriend, burning candles
and incense, praying to any of the major or minor
gods, blind dates, being fixed up by friends, all
openings, bars, cafes, dinner parties, church
ser-
cles, support groups, the personal ads,
clubs, and there are no Boyfriends left!

Merry Christmas to all the major avenues that are, in my experience,
leaving thousands of us Without
a Gay Date (WFBD). So far, over 100,000 young
men have paid the initiation fee and joined ABS, leaving a huge
gap in the Personal Boyfriend Pool (PBP) and
leaving thousands of us Without A**** Buddy or
A Gay Date (WFBD).

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