Safe Zone Excerpts

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Still a SAFE ZONE- with or without stickers

To the Cigar:

My roommate and I saw the article in the Thursday issue of The Cigar about the vandalism to the URI SAFE ZONE stickers. We decided to write in, and share our own tale: On the 7th of April (in the late afternoon) we put up our new URI SAFE ZONE sticker. We went to the movies with friends later that evening, and when we got back we found that someone had put white out all over our sticker. The next day we put up another one. Over Easter weekend someone ripped down that one as well. At the same time they crossed out the quotes we put up on the board. We put a third sticker on our board the following Monday. By Thursday we had to put up another one bringing our grand total to four. Over the weekend we lost another one, and now it’s Sunday night, April 25, and we put up our sixth sticker today!

We put OUR sticker on OUR door to express OUR feelings! We want people to know that we do not discriminate. To the vandals: Your actions tell us that it’s alright to have our opinions as long as it doesn’t inconvenience you. We have in no way restricted your opinions or your rights to hate who and what you want, so all we ask is a little respect in return. We concur it was to be expected, but if the message hasn’t gotten across yet, let’s make ourselves clear - we, the undersigned, declare that we do not, and will not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. With or without the sticker as a symbol, our room will remain a “URI Safe Zone.”

Saddened and angered at the state of the world,

Baron Clark & Melissa Lovering

SAFE ZONE

from page 1

the symbol was created as a response from the general hostility towards the gays and lesbians in years past,” said Bartels.

Students like Brent Reinhand, co-president of URI’s Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Association, think the symbol is valid in today’s world where “coming out” is becoming more and more accepted.

“I think it’s a great idea,” said Reinhand. “I actually believe this concept should start with high school students, because more and more kids are coming out younger than before.”

Anyone who wishes to participate in the URI Safe Zone campaign can obtain the symbol from the Affirmative Action Office at 792-2442. For more information on the activities of the Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and Homophobia, contact William Bartels at 792-4784.
Victim to "me" myth

Campbell said. This behavior is so accepted and "normal," that when teachers try to balance

if I woke up in the morning as a girl...I would kill myself."
boy in survey

there is a tremendous progress but we

wrote a lot of progress to

Campbell said she was in college she "was too

“was too a math major," and

limitations upon graduation

limited because she was a man. She thought these

irrational notions in her mind has discovered as

as last week that they do.

Research showed boys are consistently favored in

classroom in terms of the teachers' attention, praise,

praise, criticism, feedback and use of sources.

the inequality, it backfires because the extra attention

paid to girls leaves girls, boys and teachers feeling the boys

are being slighted, according to Campbell.

Some educational shortcomings are affected by the
different roles men and women assume in society.

asked to complete the sentence, "If I woke up in the morning as a person of the

opposite sex, the first thing I

see GENDER—page 5

are split on the issues," Kahn said.

The first motion to amend the mission statement was

introduced by Senator Marjorie Keller, an art professor, who

see MISSION—page 6
U. of R.I. promises 'safe zone' for gays

KINGSTON, R.I.—"Safe Zone" stickers (below) are appearing on doors and desks at the University of Rhode Island's campus here to let gays and bisexuals know they are safe and welcome. The stickers bear the pink and black triangles that have become symbols for the gay-rights' movement. The sticker campaign was organized by the university's Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism.

Diana Goodman, interim head of URI's affirmative-action office and a member of the panel, said that displaying the sticker signifies that a person "will be non-judgmental, understanding, and trustworthy" towards gays and bisexuals. She added that the campaign is a response to "a sense of gay invisibility" on the campus.
Damage to stickers violates Safe Zones

By Rob Borkowski
Assistant News Editor

Sometime between Sunday and Monday the gay and lesbian Safe Zone stickers posted at 10 offices in Independence Hall were defaced, causing faculty and staff to cry out in protest.

According to English Professor John Leo, the stickers were put up by the Committee Against Heterosexism and Homophobia to promote an atmosphere where a person could talk about gay and lesbian issues without being worried about harassment.

The logos on the stickers featured a pink triangle, the same symbol used by Hitler in

Cigar photo by Tanya Murray
Several Safe Zone stickers were recently vandalized in Independence Hall.

see STICKERS, page 8

Safe zones raise URI consciousness

Campaign goal to eliminate homophobia

by Karl Lyons
Assistant News Editor

The Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and Homophobia has generated the “URI Safe Zone” campaign to encourage students, faculty, and staff to convey a supportive and welcoming message towards lesbians, gays, and bisexuals.

The “URI Safe Zone” campaign created a symbol consisting of a black and pink triangle surrounded by a green circle which is intended to represent that any individual who places this on their door will be one who is non-judgmental and understanding. The triangles symbolize gay and lesbian identity and self-esteem and the circle signifies that such issues are able to be discussed in the area where the symbol is displayed.

Dianne Goodman, interim Affirmative Action Officer and founder of the campaign, states, “We are trying to make gay issues visible and do some conscious raising. This campaign is one component of the university’s commitment to value diversity. It is one facet of trying to create a community in which everybody feels safe and respected.”

On Tuesday, April 13th URI will be celebrating the
World War Two in order to identify and imprison homosexuals. Between 60,000 and 600,000 homosexuals were rounded up and put in concentration camps under this symbol, which is now being used to symbolize safety instead of persecution.

Leo said that the defacing of the stickers is a frontal assault on the whole idea of teaching, study and tolerance of different sexual orientations. "Students and faculty in my department are pissed off that the Neanderthals at this university have jeopardized it," he said.

Leo compared the attitude towards gays at Brown to the atmosphere at URI. "The student body at Brown has become more progressive in their understanding of homosexuals than students at URI," he said. He described lectures on homosexual issues that attracted packed crowds of up to 300 people.

Professor of English Louise Cuddy said that large numbers of people don't show up to conferences on homosexual issues because of fear. "Heterosexuals are afraid that they will be branded as homosexuals and be harassed. Homosexuals are afraid of the same thing. They don't want anyone to know, because then their life would be hell," the situation, says Cuddy, in one in which the homosexual community is so afraid of becoming targets that they are not even aware of each other as a group. Many homosexuals, says Cuddy, would rather hide and pretend that they are heterosexual than take the chance of reaching out to someone.

Mary Cape11o, an English professor whose office was de-stickered, said that she would rather have someone talk to her about removing the stickers than have them rip them off. She was not surprised, however. "Frankly I think that it's somewhat expected. I think a worse reaction could have occurred," she said.

Leo posed a question to the university regarding the issue. "What kind of university do you want? One where a bunch of fly-by-night marauding assholes go through a department defacing a logo that says it's OK to be different, or do they want a university where difference is an occasion for pleasure, whether in classrooms, social life, or at work?"

The Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and Homophobia has generated the "URI Safe Zone" campaign to encourage students, faculty, and staff to convey a supportive and welcoming message towards lesbians, gays, and bisexuals.

Dianne Goodman, interim Affirmative Action Officer and founder of the campaign, states, "We are trying to make gay issues visible and do some conscious raising. This campaign is one component of the university's commitment to value diversity. It is one facet of trying to create a community in which everybody feels safe and respected."

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