1993

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Special stickers at UNH may provide homosexual ‘safe zones’

By GRACE F. MURPHY
Democrat Staff Writer

DURHAM – Special stickers may soon help gays, lesbians and bisexuals identify supportive people and environments on the University of New Hampshire campus.

The proposed sticker is tentatively planned to show a green circle surrounding pink and black triangles. Those endorsing the proposed Safe Zone program hope the stickers will help identify areas or people who will be non-judgmental, understanding and trustworthy should anyone need help, advice or someone with whom to talk.

A Safe Zone program at the University of Rhode Island sparked interest here, according to Student Activities program assistant Cari Moorhead.

Reasons for starting the program at both campuses differ, and the university hopes to tailor the program to fit needs at UNH.

“We’re trying to get the feedback we need. Although the program is modeled after URI’s, our needs are different and we’re trying to determine how to best tailor it,” university Director of Affirmative Action Chris Burnside said.

So far, the Tuesday Afternoon Group, Affirmative Action Office and the President’s Task Force on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues have endorsed the sticker proposal.

Ms. Morehead, who must still present the proposal to the Professional and Technical and Operating Staff councils and Student and Academic senates, said hopes are high that other groups will endorse the idea.

“It’s a very simple and effective way for people to show they themselves are a safe place,” she said.

“I think it would help ensure that UNH continues to become a safer place.”

If endorsed by the groups, Ms. Morehead said she hopes the sticker campaign would start in October. Stickers would then be available at prominent locations on campus, she said.

“They won’t be issued homogeneously. We want it to be somewhere where people go out of their way to get it,” Ms. Morehead said.

“We’re trying to solicit input,” Ms. Burns-DiBiasio said.
UNH may create gays' 'safe areas'

DURHAM, N.H. (AP) — Stickers may be made available in October to identify safe areas for homosexuals and bisexuals on the University of New Hampshire campus.

The proposed sticker would be a green circle surrounding pink and black triangles. Supporters hope the stickers will help identify areas or people who will be non-judgmental, understanding and trustworthy should anyone need help or advice.

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Safe havens for gays

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- Associated Press
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Stickers may identify safe areas for gays

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