Inside:

University Center for LGB Life

The center has been open for seven months. What has been accomplished? What resources are now available? Will the center be there next year? Answers to these questions and more on page 4.

Spectrum nixes DGBLA's bid

The once multi-cultural organization changes its stripes and becomes "multi-ethnic," a move that keeps DGBLA outside the Spectrum umbrella. See page 3 to find out why.

Charlotte queer book store burns

An arsonist set fire to the White Rabbit bookstore in Charlotte. Was it a hate crime? See page 2 for details.

Chapel Hill passes Carrboro-like DP registration bill

Orange County gay and lesbian couples gain a little more legal respect as Chapel Hill legalizes domestic partnership registration. See page 2 for details.

NC Pride begins June 9

By Matt Lynch

While many Dukies have in their school, an entirely different kind of pride is coming to East Campus this summer.

The 1995 North Carolina Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Weekend is set for June 9-11 and this year Durham is the host.

Pride events are annual occurrences in many communities throughout the United States and are designed to bring a region's queer community together for a show of solidarity and strength in numbers as well as to be an entertaining, community-building, social event.

Some of the scheduled events include dances, volleyball, aerobics, a tea party and a fashion show.

Thousands of people are expected to participate in the annual Pride March and Rally festivities, some of which will be held on Duke's East Campus.

The Triangle Local Organizing Committee selected an entry by Jonathan Padget as the official logo for the 1995 Pride March and Celebration. Padget, owner of Word Work Studio in Charlotte, N.C., was.

DGBLA, AEPi protest KFC's hiring and firing practices

By Matt Lynch

In one of DGBLA's largest protests of the year, about 30 students picketed at the Broad Street Kentucky Fried Chicken to protest alleged anti-gay and racist hiring and firing practices by the some stores of the fast food chain.

The protest lasted about 45 minutes as students from DGBLA and the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity marched, chanted and carried signs that denounced KFC and supported protesters of the chain in Louisville, Kentucky, where the unfair practices allegedly occurred.

Even though members of DGBLA distributed information about the Kentucky protests to protesters, customers and bystanders, members of the Duke Review staff, who dined at the restaurant while it was being protested, and KFC
Briefly

Chapel Hill's Council votes to allow domestic partnership registration

By Matt Lynch

Like their Carrboro neighbors, unmarried Chapel Hill couples may now formally and legally register their union with the city.

The Chapel Hill Town Council unanimously approved a policy recognizing domestic partnerships. Same-sex or opposite-sex couples may register for a $50 fee.

Although registering a domestic partnership in Chapel Hill or in Carrboro is largely ceremonial and does not carry the same privileges as marriage, it does carry some tangible benefits.

Town policy now allows partners to take sick and medical leave to care for each other. In addition, the council agreed to extend the use of the sick and medical leave provisions to care for the children of a couple registered with the city.

Health insurance for domestic partners and their children, however, was not included in Monday's action, despite pleas from the Orange Lesbian and Gay Association, a political group lobbying for gay rights.

Susan Johnston, a Chapel Hill resident for more than 20 years, spoke at the council meeting in support of the new policy.

"It enables two people with a long-term, monogamous relationship to register as a couple. And that has a symbolic value for us," she said. "And as gay people, that's important because we're not allowed to marry. And for those of use who have been in relationships a lot longer than most people's marriages, it's nice to have that kind of support."

Editor's Note: Information for this article came from the Durham Herald-Sun.

Queer book store in Queen City destroyed by arsonists

By Matt Lynch

In the wee hours of the morning of April 3, the White Rabbit Books and Things store in Charlotte burned down in a blaze that investigators said was intentionally set.

The store, which advertises itself as a "gay and lesbian everything store," suffered extensive damage to the building and its contents.

Investigators found chemical accelerants at the scene, which indicates arson. The fire started at the back of the store and spread throughout the wooden building, which houses seven other businesses including Liaisons, a popular gay and lesbian bar.

White Rabbit is a chain with branches in Greensboro and Raleigh in addition to the Charlotte location. The stores sells gay and lesbian literature and poetry, psychology and self-help books, music, T-shirts, bumper stickers, posters and greeting cards.

Store owner John Neal of Greensboro said that although the store was underinsured which resulted in losses of about $20,000, he will reopen the Charlotte store in a new location as soon as possible.

Although the initial reaction of the Charlotte gay and lesbian was to call the arson a hate-crime, community leaders are no longer sure that is the case.

"I think it's really important that everyone has all the facts before they go jumping to conclusions, and that people don't let fear overwhelm their judgments," Sue Henry told Charlotte alternative paper Creative Living.

Veteran gay rights activist Don King, interviewed in the same Creative Living article, agreed with Henry. "There's nothing that's happened lately that would lead me to suspect this is the product of a hate crime. I frankly haven't noticed much change in the climate or mood around here. There are so many different reasons for arson that I wouldn't want to jump to any conclusions."

Anti-gay radicals do have a history of arson in North Carolina, however. In 1993, the owner of a Jacksonville, NC, gay bar was firebombed.

Brenda Tart, who manages the flagship store in Greensboro, said the arson investigation and the fact that nothing was stolen confirms her suspicion that the store was targeted because of its content. She also speaks from experiences in Greensboro.

"We've had people call and leave 30-minute messages that we're going to hell," she said. "As far as someone burning the place down, we've never had that. Someone shot through the window once, though."

Editor's Note: Information for this article came from The Charlotte Observer and The Front Page.

Who says homosexuals don't recruit? Outlines wants you!
If you would like to help publish the newsletter next year, please contact me at:
mlynch@acpub.duke.edu.
Spectrum denies DGBLA admission

Group's newly 'clarified' stance as multi-ethnic, not multi-cultural, used to justify denial

By Matt Lynch

The executive board of the Spectrum organization voted against allowing DGBLA to become an executive board member last month in a move that forced Spectrum's leaders to "clarify" the group's mission on campus and frustrated DGBLA's leadership.

Spectrum Organization, which used to refer to itself as a multicultural organization, now refers to itself as a multi-ethnic, and as such justified rejecting DGBLA's application for membership.

For DGBLA, an admission into the Spectrum organization would significantly increase its power, funding, visibility and respect from both the administration and the student body.

The executive board is composed of student representatives from the Asian Students Association, Black Student Alliance, Diya, Hillel, Mi Gente and the Students of the Caribbean Association.

Seth Persily, Trinity junior and DGBLA president, told the Chronicle that there is a power structure among undergraduates. "You are either aligned with UHA, IFC, DSG and Panhel, or with Spectrum. BSA, ASA and Diya. Both sides have funding and a lot to offer the community. Unfortunately, we feel shut out of both systems," he said.

Other members of the University community felt that DGBLA should be accepted into Spectrum.

Ellen Plummer, director of the Women's Center, told the Chronicle, "I think DGBLA's question of Spectrum is very legitimate. They're wanting some kind of articulation of what we mean by culture."

University President Nan Keohane told the Chronicle, "Julian Sanchez and I decided there were similar types of questions facing DGBLA and other cultural groups that formed the diversity committee."

Some Spectrum leaders were worried that granting DGBLA executive board status would set a precedent for other campus groups arguably that have cultures like the Women's Coalition, fraternities and religious groups to apply to and be accepted by Spectrum.

Plummer did not think that this would be a problem, however, when she told the Chronicle, "You can argue that there is a Greek culture on campus, but it ends with the campus. Fraternity and sorority members are not a nationally-recognized minority facing institutional, historical racism or prejudice the way certain races or cultures are."

Some Spectrum leaders also fear that the organization's effectiveness may be diluted as additional groups are included.

Keohane disagreed when she told the Chronicle, "At this point the diversity committee is not worried about dilution even though we have all these groups. It is not diluted if everyone's talking and there's a powerful conversation."

"This clarification has involved only articulating the specific mission that has guided Spectrum since its inception, manifested through our programming and discussions. We emphasize that this has been a process of clarification, rather than a sudden move (as a Chronicle recently phrased it) to 'redefine' our mission," the letter said.

Persily is unhappy with Spectrum's new stance. He told the Chronicle, "They realized the inconsistencies of calling themselves multicultural and not including DGBLA, so now they are thinking of calling themselves multi-ethnic. It's just incredibly ironic that the groups that scream the loudest about oppression are doing a significant amount of the oppressing."

Spectrum co-presidents and Trinity juniors Preeti Kulkarni and Anji Malhotra, defended the actions of Spectrum in a letter to the Chronicle.

"Spectrum has been viewed by many at the University as the one and only multicultural group (a broad definition), rather than a group of a multi-ethnic composition. Therefore, it is the feeling of the executive board that we must clarify, for the University community, that while we are a multicultural group in that we support and encourage issues of diversity, we have a multi-ethnic focus."

The Chronicle editorial to which the Spectrum co-presidents referred said that Spectrum denied DGBLA executive status simply because it did not want to be associated with the organization.

"Forget the rhetoric about having to admit greeks and women—greeks choose to define themselves as such and women, as Women's Center director Ellen Plummer has stated, are better able to exert their influence on existing cultural organizations than are homosexuals. There's more to this sudden change of heart than semantics, and Spectrum knows it."
LGB Center's first year a success

Center met most of this year's goals; additional hours, staff are next year's top priority

By Matt Lynch

The University Center for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Life is beginning to come of age.

The center, now in its seventh month of existence, is located at 211 Rowers and is becoming increasingly important in the lives of queer students, faculty and staff, believes Beth Steenberg, a second-year Public Policy graduate student whose work-study job was coordinating center activities this year.

Steenberg said that the main goal for this semester was to become more visible to Duke's LGB community as well as to the entire University and that she believes the Center has accomplished that goal.

She also added that she is happy that the Center has been used much more frequently in the last month. "I think that people used the Center more often in the last month than in few previous months added together," she said.

Prospective graduate students interested in LGB life at Duke have been among the increased numbers of visitors to the Center, Steenberg said.

Lunch time discussions over brown-bag lunches have also become increasingly popular over the last few weeks she said, with about 20 people attending several of the midday meetings. The most popular discussions have been those focusing on Bisexuality, Homophobia in African-American people and discussing LGB issues with Janet Dickerson, vice president for student affairs, Steenberg said.

The recent increase in Center usage is important to the Center's future Steenberg said. "We need to show that is useful to the LGB community at Duke. It's not like the Women's Center in that you're absolutely sure that it's going to be there 10 years from now," she added.

Steenberg sees the Center's existence as somewhat tenuous in that it does not have an official budget. Operating funds for this year have been coming from Maureen Cullins, assistant vice president and dean of campus community development.

LGB Center work-study student coordinator and second-year graduate student Beth Steenberg sits amidst some of the Center's books and magazines. (photo by Matt Lynch)

Cullins said that the Center is not likely to have a formal budget next year either. However, she added that additional funds for the Center were being made available through campus community development next year to hire a half-time administrative assistant and three or four more work-study students.

Cullins said that the lack of a real budget next year does not in any way signify that the Center is being slighted or lacks administrative support. "It's just difficult to get money flowing in all at once. You have to build up gradually," she said. She also added that the Center is definitely here to stay and will likely have an official budget within the next few years.

Cullins said that the LGB Center is following the example of other nascent community centers like the Women's Center and the Community Service Center which have now become important fixtures in campus life. "The LGB Center's development is following a pattern very similar to those of the other organizations," she said.

She was also very enthusiastic about the progress the Center has made this year. "I think that under the circumstances the Center has done extraordinarily well. I am very encouraged. Beth Steenberg is outstanding. She has shown the importance of good administrative help in making the Center work."

The Center's mission statement says that it offers six main services: 1) a safe haven to discuss issues of sexuality as it relates to self, family, friends, and others; 2) a friendly and comfortable location for lesbians, gays and bisexuals and allies to socialize and discuss issues affecting the lesbian, gay and bisexual community; 3) a place for groups to meet and organize activities; 4) a resource center and library containing magazines, books, and information by, for and about lesbians, gays and bisexuals; and 6) advocacy on lesbian, gay and bisexual matters at Duke.

Steenberg says that she thinks that most, but not all, of these services have been used this year. "It has not been so much a social place. Now people come here for a specific purpose. It's not that they feel comfortable just to stop by. I think that with next year's extended hours, this will change," she said.

She hopes that the Center will be open 30 hours a week next year, three times as

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KFC fired employee because he's gay

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employees questioned whether or not the protesters knew what they were protesting.
Their claims might have appeared to be founded when one of the protesters ordered a Pizza Hut pizza delivered to the protest site. KFC and Pizza Hut are owned by the same parent company, PepsiCo, which also owns Taco Bell.

Seth Persily, DGBLA president and Trinity junior, organized the protest which also was the final event in this spring's LGB Culture Week.
"I was very happy with the protest—the turnout, the energy, the enthusiasm," he told the Chronicle.

Black activists targeted the chain for what they call discriminatory practices such as unfair hiring and promotion, having a severe lack of minority store managers and ongoing intimidation of employees of color.

Gay activists joined the fight after learning of an employee who was fired because he was gay.
Denise Bentley, a KFC manager in Louisville, was asked by a KFC management representative to fire the employee. She then praised the gay employee's efficient and courteous work manner and refused to fire him because she felt he was one of her best employees. A KFC representative then fired him when Bentley was out of the store on her day off.

According to a statement issued by KFC headquarters in Louisville, "It is absolutely unacceptable for KFC to terminate an employee because he or she is gay or lesbian." The statement adds that, "We respect the personal choices of our employees," and that firing an employee because of religion or sexual orientation violates company policy.
NC Pride '95 Info

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one of the 23 artists who submitted an original entry for consideration. He describes his logo design as “utilizing one of our community's most recognizable symbols—the rainbow triangle.” He also adds that this year's theme, to be rather than to seem, reflects “statements of confidence and potential for our state's increasingly visible and influential lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.”

This year's theme is the English translation of the State Motto of North Carolina, *Esse Quam Videri*. The LOC recognizes the significance of using our state motto as the banner for a weekend which celebrates our contributions as citizens and diversity as a community.

Most of the weekend’s events will take place at the Durham Omni Hotel and Civic Center. The entire hotel has been reserved for Pride guests and no vacancies are expected.

Schedule of Events

**All Weekend**
- Pride merchandise and ticket sales
- Topical films at the Carolina (times and titles TBA)
- Mail Art Show (hotel lobby)
- Twelve-step Meetings
- Hospitality Suites

**Friday, June 9**
- 7:30 pm Board of Directors Reception
- 8:30 pm Major Entertainer (1st Show-Act TBA)
- 9:00 pm - 1:00 am Coffeehouse/Cabaret (alcohol free)
- 10:30 pm Major Entertainer (2nd Show-Act TBA)
- 11:30 pm Special show at the Power Company

**Saturday, June 10**
- 8:00 am Aerobics/Yoga
- 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Relationships Conference
- 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Vendors & Information tables

**Sunday, June 11**
- 10:00 am Play Reading
- 2:00 pm Volleyball/Bowling
- 4:00 pm Tea & Fashion Show
- 6:00 pm Ecumenical Service
- 8:00 pm Concert
- 10:00 pm - 2:00 am Diamonds and Pearls Dance

**Important Phone Numbers**
- NC Pride Message Line 685-1880
- Local Organizing Committee Subcommittees:
  - Volunteer Coordinator - Matt Stiegler 942-9405
  - Accessibility - Tilda Morris 685-1880
  - Building Bridges - Kate Clemms 828-6191
  - Dance - Derek Livingston 821-5995
  - Ecumenical Service Thomas Farmer 237-8825
  - Entertainment & Recreation - Bo Newsome 489-2633, Paul Siceloff 829-3594
  - Fundraising - L. Dan Stewart 685-1880
  - Marketing - Anne Brodsky 790-8254
  - Press/Public Relations - 834-4494
  - Pride Guide - Editorial: Steve Heist 821-2129; Advertising and Production: Jim Duley 782-4564
  - Relationships Conference - Caren Carver 790-8254, Mike Katz 782-3490
  - Vending - Joan Stiven 942-5621
  - Secretary - Dan Keller 990-1273
  - Treasurer - Sarah Titus 685-1880

LGB Center work/study positions

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many hours as this year. Campus community development will make the additional hours possible by funding the additional work/study students and half-time administrator.

Steenberg is currently the only work/study student working at the Center.

Responsibilities for the positions include planning, advertising and coordinating events sponsored by the Center, working with campus organizations to improve relations with campus groups and develop programming; coordinating SpeakOut! activities; managing and acquiring resources for the Center's library; and staffing the Center. Applications for the positions are available at the Center.

The Center's library contains several dozen books, subscriptions to the following publications: *The Advocate, Washington Blade, Out, Lambda Book Report Newsletter, The Front Page* and *10 Percent* as well as back issues to other pop culture magazines like *Genre* that generous members of the Duke LGB community have donated.

Information on safer sex practices, HIV/AIDS and other STD's and free condoms are available at the Center as well.
Most egregious injustice of "Ladies Night" left unprotested

I'm almost too ashamed to admit it. I paid $3.25 in food points to attend what will probably be the one and only all-male dance revue to ever sashay, cavort and gyrate its way into the Rat.

On April 12, student managers at the Underground, the student-run, on-campus dance club, in attempt to boost lagging attendance and "do something for the event, citing discrimination on the basis of sex which violates Title IX of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Ultimately, the administration, in response to our protests (and the threat of a law suit), decided that men must be allowed to attend the event. A few men did attend. I was one of them.

You may think, as I did, that this was a small but significant victory of sorts. A triumph for Duke queers over sexism and heterosexism. The administration appears to have actually listened to students. We made real progress at Duke! Or did we?

Admittedly it was a victory in some ways, but I think that it was a hollow one. We may have won the battle but I think in the end we lost the war.

It was not until after the show that I realized exactly what we had "won." I then understood that we had been protesting the wrong injustice all along.

I entered the Rat that Wednesday night with my head held high and a smile on my face. After all, it took a considerable amount of effort on the part of queer protesters to gain admittance to the event and I was proud of their accomplishments. I was also proud to be so visibly gay in such a public and sexually-charged environment.

I suppose it is only fair to admit that part of the reason I was smiling was that I was also looking forward to seeing some beefcake that evening. When the DJ announced that one of the dancers was the October, 1994 Playgirl centerfold, my expectations for the show increased dramatically... Un fortunately, my expectations, erotic and otherwise went unmet and I was disappointed in the show and in myself for several reasons.

First, the dancers were not all that (*"snap") if you know what I mean. Second, I found myself getting distracted by several very disturbing aspects of the show. Patriarchy, misogyny and the submission of females by force all reared their ugly heads in one of the few environments I might have thought women could have a power advantage in male/female interactions. After all, the men were the ones who were naked and therefore vulnerable, right?

They may have been virtually naked, but vulnerable they were not. The dynamics were such that dancers were very much in control of themselves and the women for whom they were dancing. A machine gun-wielding dancer in camouflage handcuffed one young woman from the audience to a chair and then forced her to watch (at a distance of about 10 inches) as he first stripped to a g-string and then gyrated that g-string in her face. He then slid his hand along her thigh and up her skirt while asking her if she was wearing any panties.

Needless to say, the expression on her face was not one of sexual excitement, but more one of fear and anxiety. The dancers cornered other female members of the audience and pushed their bulging, nearly-naked bodies against them, despite verbal protests that I could hear across the crowded, noisy room.

If I hadn't known that the women paid to subject themselves to this treatment, I would have identified what I witnessed as sexual assault and/or sexual harassment. I am not convinced that that is not the case regardless of whether or not they paid to get in.

As I have taken several courses cross-listed with Women's Studies and have some familiarity with feminist ideas and writing, I like to think of myself as something of a feminist, or at least a feminist wanna-be.

After watching the dance revue in its entirety, the feminist in me was mad at the gay man in me for giving my (parent's) hard-earned dollars to attend and support this event.

What I should have been protesting was the fact that a University group sponsored such a show at all. If some fraternity had hired a female stripper on campus, I would have been one of the loudest protesters.

Yet somehow the issue appeared different to me because the dancers were male. Perhaps my libido clouded my judgment. Yet in the end, I objectified the dancers as much as any straight guy would have objectified a female stripper.

The administrators can't use their collective libido as an excuse, however, as they did not attend "Ladies Night" for entertainment purposes. They should not have allowed such an event to occur at all, regardless of who was and was not allowed to attend.

At least I can gain solace from the fact that the administration will probably never again allow strippers of either sex perform on University property.
Lesbians
Lesbian Avengers 220-8301

Our Own Place 286-WMYN (286-9696)

Center for Non-White Lesbians 416-0331

Youth
Outright!

Durham 286-2396

Raleigh, Chapel Hill 1-800-879-2300

AIDS Services/Health Organizations
The AIDS Service Project 286-7475

AIDS Community Residence Association 479-4834

Project Straight Talk 560-7600

Lesbian and Gay Health Project 286-4107

Piedmont HIV Health CARE Consortium 286-5595

Bisexuals
Triangle Bisexual Network 406-7555

Men of Color
Black Men United 286-7614

Men of All Colors Together 490-0653

Book Stores
Regulator Book Shop 286-2700
720 9th St, Durham

Southern Sisters 683-1151
411 Morris St, Durham

White Rabbit Books and Things 856-1429
309 W. Martin St, Raleigh

Bars
The Competition 688-3002
711 Rigsbee, Durham

Power Company 683-1151
315 W Main St, Durham

Boxers, 489-7678
5504 Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham

Legends 831-8888
330 W. Hargett St, Raleigh