



GLBT Awareness Bulletin

NACURH INC.
National Task Force on GLTB Awareness

The Need for Awareness

By: Emmanuel Caudillo

A task force was created recently to look into GLBT awareness in the residential halls. I am the chair of this commission for this year. This commission is made up of RBD members throughout the nation. The purpose of this task force is look into the various issues regarding GLBT awareness and finding ways to distribute information to NACURH. The task force will showcase outstanding programs that RHAs have put on regarding this topic. It will also look upon resources that will serve to educate all residents. This task force will also look at other issues such as challenging stereotypes, question assumptions, and encourage dialogue on GLBT issues.

Thus, the task force will

present findings to you through our monthly newsletter. The monthly newsletter will have articles regarding programs, literature reviews, resources, and other educational information regarding GLBT issues and life in the residence halls.

Other initiatives that this task force will do are posing questions through the NACURH forum, highlight particular issues on the NACURH Link and work on creating a program to be presented at NACURH 2007.

Also, this task force will seek resources and ideas from you. So, if you have any stories, articles, or other information about how to advance GLBT awareness in the residence halls, we

would love to hear from you. You can submit ideas and suggestions to ecaudillo@gmail.com.

Hence in the next semester, you will be seeing a lot as this task force continues to inform and explore ways on how to handle GLBT awareness and thus all together improve the residence halls for all students.

I do hope you enjoy this introduction issue and I look forward to comments or story ideas that you would like to see in the future.

Volume 1, Issue 1
December 2006

Task Force Committee Members

- Emmanuel G. Caudillo—Chair
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- Lindsay Peck
NEACURH
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Cleaning Out the Closet... Coming Out Stories at Clark University By Lindsay Peck

Being from a small private school in Massachusetts, students are perceptive to the values of others, and are especially accepting of those in the GLBT community. One way we increase awareness on campus is an annual Coming Out Stories program, put on by the GLBT Alliance organization. This is an extremely well attended program, and most of its success is due to the support and contributions of the attendees to the presenters.

The session starts off with an MC introduction, making tasteful jokes of the social climate on campus surrounding the GLBT community. He then gives a quick infor-

mational about the organization and what they do – raise awareness and tolerance of GLBT issues in the community through events. With that, he introduces each speaker. Selected students prepared for weeks to address the audience, each with their coming out story. The stories are strategically ordered to generate a number of emotions – some are funny, some sad.

Some choose to express themselves through song, and others through poetry. After the arranged speakers have told their stories, the floor is opened to any other guests who wish to share their stories,

discuss the effects of the night, or even to come out for the first time.

This program could be adapted to your campus easily to raise awareness and acceptance in your community. It's a great way to get students to relate to each other and start meaningful dialogues about GLBT life.

LGBT Women Campus Leadership By Emmanuel Caudillo

A recent article from the Winter 2006 Edition of *Current* explored the emergence of LBBTQ women campus leadership. The article entitled “Coming out on Top: Women find a voice in a gay man’s world” tells how LGBT women are beginning to assume campus leadership roles particularly in the LGTB groups. The diversity and visibility of LGBTQ women on campus has increased largely because of a movement by women to take active leadership roles in campus LGBT groups. As more LGBT women become visible, then more will get involved.

This is due to a change of leadership structure in many LGBT campus groups. Due to the group made up of so many different identities, it is difficult to maintain a single voice. LGBT men and women are two very different communities, who act differently, who speak differently, and who think differently. Hence, many campus groups such as Georgetown and Harvard have created an inclusive leadership system. In those groups, they have one male co-chair and one female co-chair. The Vanderbilt Gay-Straight Alliance is evenly split in their executive board.

Amongst other ways that LGTBQ women have assumed leadership roles is through the establishment of women-only subgroups. Groups such as Ladies Lounge or Womyn’s World have allowed women to not only “explore what it means to be queer and a women”, but also create campus involvement and leadership experience for them as well.

Hence, female leadership position in the LGTBTQ cultural landscape has gained depth and strength as many opportunities have risen.

GLBT Terminology

The definitions of these names are based on the definitions by GLAAD (gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation)

GLBT: Acronyms for “Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender”. This term is used due to the inclusivity of the diversity of the community

Gay: An adjective used to describe people whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional, and/or spiritual attractions are to people of the same sex. This term is also commonly used to describe men

Lesbian: A women whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional, and/or spiritual attractions is to other women.

Bisexual: An individual who is physically, romantically, emotionally, and/or spiritually attracted to men and women. Bisexuals need not have had equal sexual experience with both men and women.

Transgender: An umbrella term for people who gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth

Queer: Traditionally a negative term, queer has been appropriated by some GLBT people to describe themselves. Some value it for its defiance and because of it inclusively of the entire GLBT community.

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The National Task Force on GLTB Awareness is commissioned to inform Residence Hall Associations on issues regarding students in the GLTB community and living in the residence halls.

This task force is commissioned to produce a monthly newsletter, articles for the NACURH Link, and present a program session at NACURH 2007.

This task force will also look at programs, outreach efforts, and research articles that may pertain to obtain the goals of this commission.

This task force will also implement a monthly case study that will focus on the a specific topic regarding GLBT awareness.

How You Can Help

Currently there are three members on the task force. It doesn't mean that those members are the only ones who can work on GLTB awareness. We are encouraging your help. SO if you are in the RBD, NCC, RHA President, NRHH, or even a hall council member, we can definitely use your help. You can contribute to this task force by various methods:

We would love hear programs that your RHA implements regarding GLBT awareness. It would be great to hear what your school has done in order for us to showcase in the Bulletin. So if you have an event, please send a description of

it or even share a story on how it went.

We also would like to hear stories on how your RHA or school conducts GLBT awareness in the residence halls. We would like to hear resources that your school provides.

We also would like to hear stories of leadership by those in the GLTB community and we would like to showcase them on the Bulletin.

All submissions can be sent on a

Word document (doc.) to ecaudio@gmail.com. Please send them by the 15th of each month in order for them to be edited and published in time.

This is your newsletter and we would love to get as much national input as possible. We can get a lot of out this task force with your participation. If you have any questions, please contact us at ecaudio@gmail.com.
