



Prejudice



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Homophobia Hurts



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Heterosexism



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Nowhere to turn



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Talking about sexuality:  
FLAGB initiates 'Safe Zones'

You're in love. You've found someone who is amazing, beautiful, perfect, and you can't spend enough time with them. You want to tell the whole world... but you can't. There's no one who would understand, so you're reduced to speaking around, hoping no one sees you, and keeping this incredible secret to yourself. Why? Because the person you're in love with is the same sex as you are.

Some people have child's going down their spines from reading this. Others may be disgusted, and won't read any further than that last paragraph. But probably a number of people will understand, and a few will relate. And no matter what your opinion, there are people everywhere who face this dilemma - even at Lafayette College.

It is for this reason that the Lafayette organization FLAGB (Friends of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals) is initiating Safe Zones. Safe Zones is a program that has been implemented at other colleges and universities (such as the University of New Hampshire) and met with considerable success. The purpose of the Safe Zones program is to raise awareness of gay/lesbian/bisexual issues, and to identify supporters concerning people of different sexual orientations.

"On a campus such as Lafayette's, any program that will increase gay, lesbian, and bisexual awareness is crucial," said FLAGB President Peter Theodore '97. "It is important to create an environment in which students can

feel comfortable and able to discuss all avenues of sexuality and discover for themselves their true sexual identity. The Safe Zones program is being created to help foster such an environment on Lafayette's campus.

Those who are interested in the program may attend a workshop that will explore the attitudes and problems faced by many homosexuals. After the workshop, those who choose to do so may become identified as Safe Zone supporters by taking a Safe Zone sticker and posting it on the door to their room. This sticker indicates that the person residing in the room is open-minded and willing to talk about homosexual issues. The stickers also express a willingness to listen to anyone who is homosexual or confused about their sexuality. A Safe Zone supporter will have a list of resources (such as gay/lesbian/bisexual support groups, books, etc.) to offer to such an individual.

The Safe Zone program is completely voluntary, and even those who attend the workshop do not have to become supporters. The program is simply a way for those who are sympathetic to gay/lesbian/bisexual issues to express their support. In addition, FLAGB hopes that any homosexual individuals at Lafayette will feel more comfortable walking around campus. FLAGB formed after the Princeton Review named Lafayette the most homophobic school in the U.S., and since then has spent several years struggling against the conservative atmosphere that pervades the campus.

Article from The Lafayette by Ron Leeder - Opinion editor

Books & Publications



Books & Publications

Famous Figures



Famous Figures

Queer Movies



Queer Movies

Symbols of Pride



Symbols of Pride

Listed below are some symbols that have been adopted by gay, lesbians, and their allies along with the significance of each.

Double Woman's Symbol



Also known as "the mirror of Wink". This symbol represents the planet Venus, metal, copper and femininity. The double woman's symbol represents women loving women.

Double Man's Symbol



Derived from the astrological symbol for Mars, this is the Greek God of War and patron of warriors. The arrow is a phallic symbol. A double man's symbol represents man loving man.

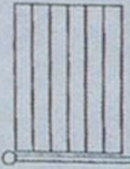
The Pink Triangle

When the Allied forces liberated the Nazi concentration camps, the notion they discovered shocked a disbelieving world. That notion had been systematically tortured and murdered termed beyond human capacity for violence and hate. The Holocaust forever changed our understanding of the potential for evil.

Concentration camp prisoners were classified by a set of colored triangles; pink was reserved for homosexuals. When liberation came in the mid-1940's, most of the survivors were gay. Homosexuals, however, were taken by U.S. Army personnel from concentration camps to Allied prisons.

Since the 1940's, the pink triangle became one of the most recognizable and powerful symbols for gay people and their oppression they have lived throughout Western history. The pink triangle was a commonly used symbol in the early 1970s liberation movement. It appears on photographs and film footage of the early marches and demonstrations. The pink triangle was ubiquitous at the National March of Washington for Lesbians and Gay Rights in 1987. It is the reminder and the statement, "Never Again!"

The Rainbow Flag



The Rainbow Flag has been adopted by the gay and lesbian community as its own flag. It depicts not the shape of the rainbow but the colors in horizontal stripes.

Created in 1978 for the

Francisco Gay Freedom Center, it was inspired by the "Flag of the Gays", which had five stripes, one each for the colors of homosexual's skin. Since the 1980s, college campus administrations.

Major gay and lesbian parades in New York, Houston, Vancouver, and Toronto began to fly the six-striped Rainbow Flag. It is prominently displayed at all homosexual events. In New York, the Rainbow Flag depicts the coffin of people who have died of AIDS, and is frequently displayed on church doors. The AIDS ward of a hospital, Azusa hospital near the Rainbow Flag as a symbol of hope. A gay actor such as the Netherlands was a bicolor based on the Rainbow Flag. In a few short years, the flag has spread worldwide to represent a movement. Its success is not due to any official recognition but to a widespread spontaneous adoption by members of the community it represents.

The Labrys

The double-headed ax comes from the myth of the scythes of the god Pan (Pantheon). It was originally used in battle by female Lesbian warriors. The Labrys appears in ancient Greek art and has become a symbol of resistance.



The Lambda



Chosen by the Gay Activist Alliance in 1970 as the symbol of the gay movement, the Lambda is the Greek letter "λ". A battle flag with a Lambda was carried by a regiment of ancient Greek warriors who were accustomed to battle by their strong male form and needed for their fierceness and willingness to fight to the death.