

Kathy Smith



LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

PHILOSOPHY

March 18, 1996

To: Associates of the Faculty and Staff Association on Gay, Lesbian, and
Bisexual Issues

From: Lori Gruen x5162

Re: Safe Zone Program Kick-off on **March 29**

Brown Bag 12:00 in 123 Williams Center

Minnie Bruce Pratt Workshop 4:10 in Hogg Hall

I'm delighted to inform you that FLAGB has initiated a SAFE ZONE program for the Lafayette campus. The program is designed to make the campus a safer and more accepting place for gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. To kick-off the program, FLAGB will be holding a Brown Bag on March 29 at noon in Room 123 in the Williams Center (FREE FOOD will be provided) and Minnie Bruce Pratt will give a workshop on heterosexism and homophobia at 4:10 in the Hogg Hall Chapel. I hope you will attend these events and encourage your students to do so as well.

The SAFE ZONE program will consist of a series of workshops to provide information and raise awareness of gay, lesbian and bisexual issues. Those wishing to become Safe Zone Supporters can express their interest by attending one workshop. Supporters will receive a SAFE ZONE sticker to place on their dorm-room/apartment/office door which will act as a visible symbol of support for the program. Safe Zone Supporters will also be provided with an information packet. Supporters will not attempt or be expected to "counsel" individuals, rather the supporters role will be to offer an understanding, non-judgmental, confidential ear to those who may have nowhere else to turn.

The success of this program will require support from many people. A faculty and staff presence at the workshops and involvement as Safe Zone Supporters is extremely important. Safe Zone Programs (also known as Ally Programs) have improved the campus climate for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students and faculty at a number of colleges and universities across the country and we believe the same thing can happen here at Lafayette.

If you have any questions or would like to participate more actively in the program, please contact me at X5162.