

Questioning Established Sexual Taboos' LGBT Manifesto

An important aspect of Lafayette is the importance of diversity on campus with respect to race, gender, religion, ethnic background, and now sexual orientation. Lafayette continues to strive to meet both personal and federal demands to diversify its student population, but more can be done. Student groups like Association of Black Collegians, the Association of Lafayette Feminists, and Questioning Established Sexual Taboos allow for diversity to continue playing an important role in student life. These groups fight for equality on and off campus and give a sense of security and support to members and non-members alike. Diversity and the sense of community are both an integral part of "the Lafayette Experience."

So much emphasis is placed upon "the Lafayette Experience," but what many people don't realize is that the Lafayette Experience continues into "real life" after Lafayette. Actions taken here at Lafayette spread into actions taken in real life. The way people act at Lafayette is the way they will act in real life. Therefore, it is essential for each person to create an identity at Lafayette conducive to the world at large. In this vein, the view of the GLBT community at Lafayette and its allies directly influences people's views of the GLBT community and its allies outside of the college. All we ask for is respect and understanding, not necessarily in that order. As members and allies of the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) community, we expect the following from the greater Lafayette community.

- Respect for members and allies of the GLBT community.
- Freedom from other's religions interfering with our lives. The GLBT community does not appreciate being told we're going to hell for who we are.
- No derogatory remarks that could offend a member of the GLBT community or their allies, and punishments for those who use them. Racism is not tolerated, therefore heterosexism shouldn't be either.
- We must work to eradicate stigma, the first step of which is to eradicate gay stereotypes.
- An acceptable way to prevent the constant staring of others into the QuEST room. This makes members of the GLBT community and their allies uncomfortable and is simply rude.
- GLBT curriculum / Queer Studies: New Queer Theory course in Fall 2008!
- Enhanced growth and communication between openly LGBT and supportive faculty/administration/staff and students
- A QuEST floor or house in which members of the GLBT or allies can live without fear of discrimination or prejudiced comments.
- Gender-neutral housing
- Recognition of the Gay History Month (October) to further educate the college community about homosexuality and heterosexism
- Participation in international events for the world LGBT community, including April 25th's Day of Silence, and Transgender Remembrance Month, November
- The removal of associations with organizations which discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity